To the Honourable General Assembly to be holden at Hartford in the county of Hartford, on the Second Tuesday of May next.

The petition of the Pequot Indians, in the town of Groton in the County of New London who petition by their overseers John Morgan & James Avery both of said Groton humbly Sheweth. That said Indians ever since the conquest of them have been true & faithfull to the English & Served them against the common enemy with their dearest lives in many remarkable instances as in the narragansett wars, & in all the Attempts by the English made against Canada, & that as voluntiers upon free cost that they had in reward for their faithfull Service Sett out to them in said Groton a Tract of Land called Malhuntuxit containing about 1700 Acres for them to live upon. and in that the Same is very broken & uneven. tis but just Sufficient for them to improve for planting & firing &c that when the town of New London inclusive of Groton took their patent the said land was reserved to said Indians as exprest in their said patent. the said Indians have Improved the Same now for Sixty years last past That in the year 1731 the general Assembly of this Colony past an Act prohibiting the laying out said land by the English. According the Same which we took as a great favour. & an instance of fatherly protection of the honourable Assembly. y in the year 1732 the proprietors of said Groton att the Genl Assembly held at Hartford obtained a Comitite to come to said Groton to view the Circumstances of Mashuntuxit Land and make report to the general Assembly who accordingly reported that the one half of said Land was Sufficient for the Indians to dwell upon & cut firewood & y the other half allowed to be laid out in fifty acre lots & the Same to be fenced to Secure the feed & the Indian corn. & to reserve 10 acres of wood on every Lot for firewood. & the other half to ly Common for the Indians to plant on &c. it would very well Accomodate the Indians which report in october 1732 and the proprietors allowed during the Courts pleasure to fence the Same in fifty Acre Lots & to Clear the Same as p report at large appears now your Honours poor petitioners humbly beg that your Honours would declare to said proprietors that they Shall no longer improve said Lands as by said report is allowed & that for the following reasons Viz) first the commitite was mistaken in Supposing that the one half of said Land was Sufficient for us to dwell upon & cut firewood &c. there not being more than 60 Acres of Land that will by any means doo to plant the rest being very hilly rocky & mountainous 2 by y proprietors have in two or three instances acted contrary to the licence given them by said act they have not ten acres of wood on every fifty acres of said Land but have destroyed almost all the Timber on Several of the said 50 acre Lots They have also plowed considerable of said Land & have built houses thereon which they had no right to do. they have also Sometimes cut the Stalks of the Indians Corn before it was hard by which the corn was almost Spoilt — & commonly what corn they plant in the English enclosures is all destroyed — neither have they left one half of said Land. but have laid out a great deal more than one half Your Honours petitioners therefore humbly pray that they may be restored to the Enjoyment of their Land, So that they may be able to live near together that they may be able to attend the preaching & to have their Children Schooled which tis impossible to attain to So long as their land is taken away from them they must be obliged to Seek habitations somewhere else. thus having laid before
your honours the State of our affairs & humbly beg relief Since we have not like our neighbours given your honours vast trouble, by repeated applications on the other Side the waters & your honours petitioners as in duty bound Shall &c. Dated in Groton April 28

26 1741 A true Copy Tested of the O Rigonel prayer to the general assembly by me Jabez Smith Conftabel

[verso:

Duplicate Copy for Jacob Parks

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