Zachary Johnson to Erne Richard Law.

Mohegan May 30th 1781

Hon’d Sir

You are being appointed one of the Trustees for the Mohegan Indians, I take the Liberty in Behalf of myself and Brethren, (the true Mohegan Indians) to acquaint you that the unaccountable Spoils and devestation committed by Strange Indians and disorderly white People, on the Mohegan Lands, is the cause of much disquiet and Trouble to us, and notwithstanding the several Laws and orders made to prevent the same, the Wastes on the said Lands more and more increase, the said Strangers persisting that they will do as they please in defiance to any Authority, and even tell us we have no Right to interfere in the matter.

We modestly think Sir, as wee are the Original Natives of said Land, which has Lawfully passed to me and my Brethren by Inheritance, and confirmed also by the last Will of the late Sachem Uncas, we ought to have a Right to Consent to any disposal of the same, or to dissent from anything prejudicial to our antient priviledges but Sir the Strange Indians headed and assisted by a certain Indian Minister, tell us the Land is theirs from the

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May 30, 1781
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Sanction of the British King, whom we Intirely disown as having any Right to the Indian or any other Land, in this part of the World We therefore beg Sir you will be pleased to interpose your Authority in the present General Assembly on our Behalf, as we are doubtful whether we the True Mohegan Tribe, will not in some short Time be rooted from our said Land and by the said intruding Strangers continually are Settling on the said Indian Land to avoid having to pay Taxes to the State

I am Sir
your Obedient humble Serv’t

Zachry Johnson
Honble Richd Law Esqre
[Superscribed] To The Honble Richd Law Esqre Hartford
[Indorsed] Zachery Johnson May 30, 1781 de Mohegan
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