

Petition of Decun Sacobason in behalf of Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians respecting their fishing lands

House of Representatives

January 31, 1821

Read and committed

*to Messrs. Emery, Tuck and
Hammond*

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled

The petition of Captain Sacobasen and others in behalf of themselves and their Governor and all the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians humbly shewith that your petitioners and the tribe to which they belong have from the commencements of the revolutionary war in the year 1775 been faithful and steady friends to the United States and to the government of this State - and that for the services we rendered this government the British government took from your petitioners all the land they and their predecessors had occupied and improved for ages on the English side of the river St Croix - and that by these and many other losses your petitioners have become very poor - and your petitioners would beg leave further to state that the game and fish were formerly plenty in their forests and rivers once of great advantage to your petitioners - but of late years they have been deprived of this advantage by the fish in the rivers being mostly destroyed and little or no game being left in the forests or streams for hunting - therefore your petitioners humbly pray your honorable Body to take their governor and tribe under the protection of the government of this State and grant to your petitioners such assistance as you in your wisdom may judge proper - your petitioners further state that they are in great want of a piece of woodland for the purpose of getting wood in the winter for the use of the elderly Indians their squaws and children as they live on a point of land called Pleasant Point where they can not procure wood as all the woodland for the distance of thirty miles is owned by private individuals - your petitioners further pray that a stop may be put to the destruction of the fish in the Schoodick river and that such a law may be passed as will preserve and increase the fish in said river and its branches - your petitioners further beg leave to represent that the wanton destruction of the game is detrimental to the public interest and very injurious to your petitioners therefore your petitioners wish to represent that if no beaver, otter or muskrats were allowed to be taken or destroyed by any white man except from the first day of April to the first day of May in each year that it would preserve the game from being and be of great benefit to the Indians - your

petitioners further beg to leave state that they are destitute of a priest to teach them and their families and although in great need of one to afford them instruction yet in their present situation have not the means to supply themselves they therefore pray your Honorable Body to grant them such assistance as you in your goodness may deem expedient - Your memorialists further wish to state that many of their tribe have a great desire to become farmers and settle on their lands but being poor and inexperienced in the art of farming they are unable to make such improvements as would enable them to live on their farms without some assistance which would encourage many of the tribe to become farmers all which is humbly submitted your memorialists would further state that at the commencement of the late war between this country and great Britain they were offered lands and assistance by many in the English government if they would leave their possessions in this state and settle ~~and settle~~ on the English side of the river St Croix which offers were rejected by our governor and tribe considering ourselves as belonging to this State and as bound not only to this State but also to the United States both by the ties of duty and of friendship - all which we pray your honorable body to take into consideration and grant us such relief as you in your wisdom may judge necessary and as in duty bound will ever pray-

Decun Sockbasan [signed]