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Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin, praying that the title of the Menomonie Indians to lands within that territory may be extinguished

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MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE TERRITORY OF
WISCONSIN,

PRAYING

That the title of the Menomonee Indians to lands within that Territory
may be extinguished.

JANUARY 28, 1839.

Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That the title of the Menomonee nation of Indians is yet unextinguished
to that portion of our Territory lying on the northwest side of, and adjacent
to, the Fox river of Green bay, from the portage of the Fox and Wisconsin
rivers to the mouth of Wolf river.

This tract of country, although of comparatively small extent, is never­
theless of great importance to the Territory, in consequence of its geographi­
cal position, and of the fact that the Indian title to nearly all the lands by
which it is surrounded has been already extinguished, and settlements to
a considerable extent have already been commenced upon them, thus leaving
in the midst of our settlements a tract of country inhabited only by
savages, and those of a description who have not the slightest tendency
towards civilization. The Legislature would also urge upon Congress,
with earnestness, the fact, that a deep interest is felt by the citizens of the
Territory in the improvement of the Fox river, some slight improvements
in which, together with the construction of a canal from the Fox to the
Wisconsin river of one and a quarter mile long, (which has already been
commenced,) would afford an uninterrupted water communication from the
great lakes to the Mississippi, by a route which nature seems to have de­
digned for that purpose. Congress have already made appropriations for
the survey of Fox river, with reference to its future improvement, and the
report of the engineer is understood to be highly favorable, and it seems
highly probable that the report of the engineer will be followed by an ap­
propriation to make the improvement; but a very limited and partial benefit
will be derived from any such appropriation or improvement, until the title-
of the Menominee Indians is extinguished to the tract alluded to, as most of the improvements needed upon the Fox river would be required to be made upon that part of it skirted by those lands.

The Legislature therefore respectfully ask of your honorable body an appropriation for the purpose of enabling the President of the United States to cause the title of the Menominee Indians to be extinguished to that portion of our Territory before alluded to.

JOHN W. BLACKSTONE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM BULLEN,
President of the Council.

Approved, December 18, 1838.

HENRY DODGE.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the original on file in my office.

W. B. SLAUGHTER,
Secretary of Wisconsin Territory.

December 26, 1838.