

At a ²¹²meeting of the Committee on Indian Concerns
held in Baltimore on the 14th of the 12th month 1837.
present 8 members

A Communication addressed to the Committee on Indian Concerns of Indiana was read in reply to their, under date of 11th of 11th month last respecting the presentation of a memorial to Congress on the subject of the employment of the Shawnee Indians in the Contest with the Seminoles. It was approved the Clerk is directed to sign it on our behalf & forward it with a Copy of this minute.

It is as follows;

To the Committee for Indian Concerns
for Indiana Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends

The Communication which you recently addressed to us covering a Memorial to Congress respecting the employment of some of the Indians by the authority of the Secretary of War to assist the United States in its contest with the Seminoles of Florida has been received. We have endeavored to consider it with that careful deliberation which its very serious importance demands, but have not been able to bring our minds to a decision to unite with you in presenting the Memorial to Congress. We of course feel a regret that any thing should transpire going to render our views at variance with yours on any matter connected with a Concern in which we are jointly interested & associated but in looking

at the proposition which you have made to us and the terms in which the Memorial is couched we have felt very apprehensive that by laying it before Congress we should be instrumental in arraigning the Department of War or the President of the United States before the House as officers guilty of unchristian conduct and an abuse of their authority. We are so dependent on the Good Will of Government for the quiet unobstructed prosecution of our undertaking on behalf of the Indians that to do any thing calculated as we conceive this measure to be to dissipate this good will and engender in its place feelings of direct hostility towards our establishment seems to us to involve any critical responsibility and one that we are not prepared to assume particularly as we are very doubtful whether in case we were to unite with you in your suggested appeal to Congress we should at all obtain the object of our endeavour. We feel with you the exceeding grievance of this unexpected interruption of our relations with the Shawnee but are led to hope from various causes that it will prove only partial & of short duration. We presume the number of Indians intended to be drafted for the War in Florida is limited & if filled up at all will be likely to be filled up before our application to Congress would be acted on and as the War will perhaps be shortly concluded in some way or another & no more calls be made upon remote tribes to engage in its prosecution - we think