To His Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esq: Cap: General, Governor, &c. and to the Honourable his Maj: : Council, and Houfe of Representatives in General Court assembled --- ---

The humble Petition of us the Subscribers, Indian Inhabitants of Okokamy or Christian-Town, humbly sheweth

______

That whereas we your Petitioners, being with others Proprietors of Sd Town, are very much aggrieved by several ill disposed Persons among us, who cut down, and fell off large Quantities of the Wood growing on sd: Lands, without any Order firſt legally obtained of sd. Proprietors, and to their great Grief and Disturbance, there being a Prospect, that if a Stop be not feanobly put to the ill Practice above expreſsed, it will prove the Ruin of our Town, not only because we are like in a few Years, if this Trade goes on, to have no Fire-Wood and Fencing. Stuff left for our Use; but also becaufe a great Part of fth Wood and Timber is conceived into strong Drink, and brought about to the great Hurt of our People. And this being a Matter we cannot see any way to prevent, and our Land not being dividable as other Properties commonly are, we therefore, your Petitioners do humbly pray, that Your Excelcy and Yr. Honors would take our Cafe into your wife Consideration, and do as in your great Wifdom you may think proper and expedient: and if it may be, put a Stop to a Practice fo grievous and prejudicial to us and our Neighbours. ______

At leaſt we pray that if nothing eſe can be done at prefent, Your Excelcy and your Honors would pleaſe to put a Stop to the cutting and carrying away any more of our Wood, till there can be fome Hearing of our Cafe in our Court at the Fall Sefions; for we perceive there is a Defign to cut and carry off fome Hundreds of Cords besides the vaſt Quantities that have already been carried away. --- If Your Excelcy and Yo’ Honors shall pleaſe to give us, Yo’ humble Petitioners hereunto subſcribing, fome Relief in this our difficult Cafe, we, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray &c. ----------

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In Council July 23. 1741; Read & In answer to this Petition
Ordered that all Persons whatsoever be & hereby are forbidden from Cutting, Felling or Destroying or carrying off any of the Timber, Trees, or Wood growing or being on the common & undivided Land within the Town called Okakamy or Christiant Town in the IlLand of Marthas Vineyard, Excepting the Indian Proprietors of the said Land, & then only for their own Use. And John Allen as Agents in the name & behalf of the said Proprietors Esq. & Mr. William Tilton are hereby authorized and impowered, to prosecute in the Law all Persons that shall cut fell or destroy or carry off any of the said Timber, Trees, or Wood, contrary to the true Intent of this Order. Sent down for Concurrence J. Willard Secty.

In the House of Rep's Aug't 4. 1741
Read and concur'd
J Hobson Spkr
Consented to
J Belcher