

By Mr. Bohigian of Worcester, petition of Robert Hahn, Robert J. Bohigian and others for adoption of resolutions by the House of Representatives memorializing the President of the United States to appoint a special commission to examine Indian land claims in Massachusetts, to consider the threat to Indian culture and to recommend solutions. Federal Financial Assistance.

## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO EXAMINE INDIAN LAND CLAIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS, TO CONSIDER THE THREAT TO INDIAN CULTURE HERE, AND TO RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS.

*Whereas*, A major problem facing the citizens of Massachusetts and the Nation, is dealing with the continuing encroachment by non-Indians on federal Indian land in Massachusetts, the resulting threat to Indian culture, and the increasing Indian resistance thereto; and

*Whereas*, Six tribal groups in Massachusetts have recently filed cases in federal court involving six Indian Reservations, seven Massachusetts cities and towns and land alone valued over a billion dollars; and

*Whereas*, The Attorney for these Indians has written to President Reagan urging formation of a special commission to examine the situation and recommend solutions; and

*Whereas*, A recent federal court has ruled that Massachusetts' Sovereignty over its Indian lands ended in seventeen hundred and eighty-nine; and

*Whereas*, The United States has followed a policy established long before seventeen hundred and eight-nine to protect and preserve Indians, Indian lands and Indian culture; and

*Whereas*, Such policy is consistent with a growing national awareness that Indian views toward protecting and preserving the environment are views we all must share; and

*Whereas*, The short term desire by non-Indians to develop Indian land for profit regardless of consequences must yield to larger considerations of preserving Indian lands and Indian culture as part of our local and national heritage; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives respectfully urge the President of the United States to appoint a special commission to examine Indian land claims and threats to Indian culture in Massachusetts and to recommend solutions therefor; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the President of the United States.