

Letter to the Eastern Indians
Watertown, May 15, 1775

Friends and good brothers,

We, the delegates of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, being come together in Congress to consider what may be best for you and ourselves, to rid ourselves of the slavery designed for us, think it our duty to write you the following letter.

Brothers, the great wickedness of those who should be our friends but are our enemies — we mean the ministry of Great Britain — has laid deep plans to take away both our liberty and yours. They seek to take our money, make us their servants, and control what we may eat, drink, or wear. They would prevent us from having guns and powder, either for our own use or to supply you, so that neither of us may hunt or trade as we have done. But we hope soon to supply both guns and powder of our own making.

We have petitioned England for both you and us, asking only for what is ours, but they would not hear us. Instead, they have sent ships and soldiers to force us to submit and have already killed some of our men. We have driven them back and taken many of theirs. The English colonies, from Nova Scotia to Georgia, have resolved to stand together against them. Your liberty and ours are the same — we are brothers — and by standing together we shall overcome them and remain free.

Captain Goldthwait has surrendered Fort Pownall into the hands of our enemies. We are angered by this, and we understand that you are as well. We wish to know what you need in clothing or warlike stores, and we will supply you as we are able. We will do all we can to assist you and hope that none of your people, nor those in Canada, will join our enemies. You may have great influence in preventing this.

Our brothers, the Indians at Stockbridge, have joined with us; some have enlisted as soldiers, and we have given each a blanket and a ribbon, and they will be paid while in service. If any of you are willing to enlist, we will do the same for you. We have sent Captain John Lane to you for this purpose, and he will show you his orders to raise a company of your men to join with us in the war against our common enemies.

Brothers, we humbly ask that God, who rules above and does what is right below, be your friend and bless you, and prevent the designs of those wicked men from harming either you or us.

If you will inform Mr. John Preble what things you need, he will take care to notify us, and we will do the best we can for you.

Passed. Ordered to be authenticated and sent forward.

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