

## Petition and Statement of Facts.

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*To the Honorable Commissioners appointed by the President to negotiate with the Cherokees and other Indians owning or claiming lands west of the ninety-sixth degree of longitude in the Indian Territory, for the cession of said lands to the United States:*

GENTLEMEN—The act of Congress under which you were appointed says: “The President is hereby authorized to appoint three commissioners, not more than two of whom shall be members of the same political party, to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians, and with all other Indians owning or claiming lands lying west of the ninety-sixth degree of longitude in the Indian Territory, for the cession to the United States of all their title, claim or interest of every kind or character in and to said lands, and any and all agreements resulting from such negotiations shall be reported to the President, and by him to Congress at its next session, and to the council or councils of the nation or nations, tribe or tribes agreeing to the same for ratification, and for this purpose the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, to be immediately available: *Provided*, That said commission is further authorized to submit to the Cherokee Nation the proposition that said nation shall cede to the United States, in the manner and with the effect aforesaid, all the rights of said nation in said lands, upon the same terms as to payment as is provided in the agreement made with the Creek Indians of date January nineteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-