

of the Land Office for the District of Detroit, on the 31st October 1805 in behalf of your Memorialists by a person duly authorised therefor at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the District of Detroit.

Your Memorialists beg leave to suggest that they are informed, and have been assured that the sales of the Detroit Commons on the 6th February 1809 have been made in violation of An Act "Concerning the Town of Detroit" made and published the 13th September 1806 and that untill the said Act is repealed, or so much thereof as regards the Detroit Commons beyond the Court House Circus, the said sale is absolutely invalid in point of Law; If so, your Honorable Body is still at full liberty to retrace your Steps, and grant to the Inhabitants residing in the Town of Detroit, their Commons, *which they have time out of mind enjoyed*, untill partially dispossessed of by Military Authority, as hath been emphatically expressed by the said Legislature of the North West Territory, in their written instructions to Paul Fearing Esq^r their Delegate in Congress on Friday the 11th December 1801.

Your Memorialists claim the const[it]utional privilege to Assemble and petition Government for a redress of grievances; considering their rights invaded, We enter our Solemn Protest against your proceedings, in violating through us, the constitution of the United States, by Selling the Public Commons aforesaid, and by the repeal last Fall of all Laws enacted by the Legislature of the North West Territory aforesaid under its second grade, by which we had acquired rights greater than any you Could Confer, and Particularly the Act aforesaid incorporating the Town of Detroit which passed while we the *People of this Territory*, were legally represented in said Legislature. The act of Congress of the 8th May 1792 Section 2^d only having authorized the Governor & Judges of the Territory North West of the River Ohio, and consequently your Honors as their Successors "*to repeal their Laws by them made, whensoever the same may be found to be improper*"

Your Memorialists with humility request leave to express their opinions, that there could not possibly be any *impropriety* in said Incorporation act, Authorizing Trustees