

Testimony in support of House Bill HB0968 - William Zwart.

Good afternoon, Honorable Chairman and members of the committee,

In 1830, the U.S. Congress, under pressure from greedy gold miners and bigots, passed the Indian Removal Act, forcing an estimated 100,000 indigenous tribes to abandon lands that they owned, by right and treaty, and relocate west. Some 15,000 perished on the way in what would become known as the Trail of Tears.

The reason that the federal government was able to force these people off their own property was because they were allowed to buy it, and something tells me they didn't give a fair price, either.

No government, foreign or domestic, should be allowed to take land from its people.

Today, Chinese-owned farmland is greater than a city 7 times the size of Baltimore! And considering they tried to buy more near a military base in North Dakota, something tells me their intentions aren't exactly honorable. What's to stop them from getting a small chunk of Maryland, and putting a laboratory on it. We could become ground zero for another COVID outbreak.

At the same time of the Trail of Tears, southern slaves were not even allowed to own land, and it was only after they had property of their own post-Civil War, that they began to flourish. Owning property is a fundamental human right, but owning it in someone else's country is not. That's called land-grabbing, and the more land China grabs, the less there will be for you to govern.

Speaking of slaves, who is it that utilizes massive *child* slave labor to fund its economy? China. The Emancipation Proclamation kicked slave-owners out of this country. We shouldn't bring them back.

If you support Maryland remaining in the hands of Marylanders, and not oppressive, intolerant, child-slavers, then you support this bill.

I therefore urge you to vote in favor of it, and send it to the floor.

Thank you.