



Town of Reading  
16 Lowell Street  
Reading MA 01867

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## READING TOWN MEETING INSTRUCTIONAL MOTION FORM

Please print legibly and print exactly as you would like to present the Instructional Motion. This will become part of the permanent record of this Town Meeting and must be submitted to the Town Clerk and Moderator before Town Meeting.

Instructional Motion Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 4/19/2024

Instruction to: Town Leadership/ Select Board/ Town Manager/ Charter Committee  
Board, Committee or Department

I, Linda Snow Dockser of Precinct 1 do hereby move that;

Whoever in our town leadership is responsible for our Town Seal consider changing the seal to exclude or remove the violent sword at the top of our seal.

Thank you for your consideration!

Linda Snow Dockser

Background: Our Town Seal is based on the seal of our state and reconsideration of our State Seal is underway. Information can be found at these links: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Resolves/2020/Chapter2>  
<https://malegislature.gov/Commissions/Detail/565/About>

The Change the Mass Flag Website explains the rationale for the need to change the seal. They write on <https://changethemassflag.com/>

:  
**"Why is a change needed?"**

The imagery of the Massachusetts Flag and Seal - a white hand holding a Colonial sword over the head of an Indigenous person, above a Latin motto that translates: "She Seeks by the Sword a Quiet Peace under Liberty" - is seen by many as a symbol of violence against Indigenous people, and a memorial to the violent colonization of their homelands. Finally, Native leaders of the area are being consulted about a new design for a flag and seal that may better express the ideals of peace, justice, and equality for all the people who now call the Commonwealth their home."

The update on the status of the Bill for changing the seal is summarized here:

<https://changethemassflag.com/2023/11/16/special-commission-issues-final-report-change-the-flag-and-seal-hi-re-a-designer-lets-get-it-done/>

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk:

Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_