

Washington November 28th 1813

Sir

Finding that the multiplicity of business that you have to attend to, will not allow me to intrude to frequent upon you with my requests - I take the liberty to ask once more favour - wherein I can be of ~~the most~~ importance to the coasting trade in the bay and rivers entering into the Chesapeake. During my last command I had the pleasure of frequently relieving many poor men who had their all under their feet, (and were by necessity obliged to risk it for the support of their families) by informing them of the situation of the enemy, and by giving them the best plans to avoid being surprised - I would if I had the command of a barge sufficiently large to cope with one of theirs, hover about them, and watch their motions and when they went up the bay, I would go above, and when they were descending, and when they came down would follow them and keep at all times prepared to take any advantage of a tender or small schooner should be becalmed, so that she could not join the fleet I would go out and take her - by my main object would be to get my torpedoes to bare upon them, and it could be done with ease where they should shift their station - I could likewise transport such articles from one Navy yard to another as might be necessary, and give the agents at different points information of the number and movements of the enemy - and as it has and probably will again happen, they have chased small boats and taken them with our barge in my sight, but with the command of six men I could not render them the least service, but had I the command of 20. and situated as I have been I could have taken the boat without her having the least prospect of escaping - exclusion of service I have in two instances with my men taken a position on