Middle District July 25th 1776.

Gentlemen

I am directed by the Committee of this District to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 16th Instant, Several Resolves and the Declaration of Independency. to the Contents of which papers due attention will be paid. Arms were some time ago Appointed in the different Hundreds within this District, to receive the Arms from those who have not Signed the Association and Enrolled in the Militia, but no returns have been made by them. Three Guns only have been brought in which are delivered to Mantz's Company. And the Committee offered as their Opinion that very few Guns will be got by way of Loan, and that there is not the least probability of Arming the Flying Camp from this quarter, but by Purchase

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The Committee have often been applyed to by the Prisoners in the Gray Jail, for an Enlargement, on giving sufficient Security not to depart the Bounds which may be allotted them, and for their good Behaviour, but are doubtful whether they would be justified in Complying with their request, and would be glad to be favoured with the Opinion of your Honble Board; and as Some of these prisoners are Officers, whether they are not entitled to their parole, Agreeable to the Resolution of Congress respecting Prisoners. Yesterday were brought to this place, under a Guard from Burlington, fifteen officers, taken at St Johns, who are ordered by the Board of War to be Kept here. Those who refuse to Sign the parole, are ordered to be Confined in Jail, Three of them have Signed, and the other 12 who refused to sign were last night Sent to the Gaol, which we have been obliged to Crowd in a Short time to take the advantage allowed them. it is a dreadful place (but the best we have) to be Confined in, and so Crouded at present (being 27) that it may be dangerous to their healths. The officers last mentioned, find themselves, but it will be necessary to Augment the Guard, which will increase the Expence, and the money Sent to defray the Charges of the Prisoners, being nearly Expended, the Committee request that a further Sum be Sent by the first Opportunity. I am Gentlemen your most Obedt Servt

John Hanson Jr.