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To His Excellency Thomas Johnson Esquire, Governor.

The Honourable Members of the Senate, and House of Delegates of the State of Maryland.

The Address of the Officers of the Maryland Forces.

We beg leave, most respectfully, to represent to your Excellency and Honours that the several provisions hitherto made by the Legislature for the subsistance of her Officers, tho' liberal at the Time of being voted, have by no means been adequate to the exigent expences of their respective Stations.

That a Zeal for the public Cause, and an ardent desire to promote the Happiness and interest of their Country have, notwithstanding, induced them to continue in the service to the very great prejudice of their private fortunes: Many of which being now entirely exhausted, we find ourselves under the painful and humiliating necessity of soliciting your Excellency and Honours for a further Support, confident that it must be agreeable to the Benevolent intentions of the Legislature, heretofore manifested, and the disposition of a generous and grateful People to reward the services of the faithful Sons and Servants of the State. —

The very great depreciation of the Continental Currency renders it absolutely necessary that some further provision should be made for our support to enable us to continue in a service in which nothing but a Love of Liberty and the Rights of Mankind can retain us. And we trust that it will be such as will support with Decency and Dignity the respective Ranks which our Country has done us the Honour to confer on us. —

The Inconveniences and Difficulties we suffer are Various and Grievous. But we think it unnecessary to be particular or to point out a mode of Redress as the Examples of the State of Pennsylvania and others in providing for their Officers and Soldiers are the most Eligible and ample we desire or Expect.

We beg leave to assure your Excellency and Honours with the utmost Candor and Sincerity that while we assiduously exert our best abilities in a hardy opposition to the Enemies of our Country we earnestly wish the Arrival of that Period when our Military services will be no longer Requisite and, being at Liberty individually to procure a peaceful Competence; We may again be numbered among the Happy Citizens of the Free and Independant State of Maryland. —

We Have the Honor to be with great Respect,

Your Excellency and Honors,

Most Obedient Humble Servants.

Knowing the above Representation to be a true State of the grievances of the Officers in the Maryland Line on their behalf and in justice to them I have subscribed it

W Smallwood

Jos Carvil Hall Col 4th Mb

Oth. H. Williams Col. 6. Regt