Baltimore 7th April. 1781.

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Sir.

The apprehensions of danger and attack from the enemy's plundering vessels with the recent desertion of several negroes from the neighbourhood of this Town, have induced its citizens to purchase and prepare two look-out boats at their private expence in order to prevent the latter, but more particularly to give information of the approach of the former, that they may have time to embody for its defence. It is calculated, that the price of the boats, the wages of their crews, and some common disbursements, will amount to near 300£ specie per month. The inhabitants of this Town have requested me to lay this before your Excellency, and to beg your order to the comandg Officer here, that provisions may be issued for the boats during this particular service; or till the plan, which they are informed government has before them for the general defence of the bay, shall be put into execution.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect, your Excellencys most obt & hble Servt James McHenry

His Excellency
Governor Lee

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