To his Excellency Thomas Johnson Esqr Governor, and the Council of Maryland

Your Petitioners beg leave to represent to your Excellency that they have, some of them been apprehended in the County of Somerset & Worcester, but that much the greater Part of them voluntarily surrendered themselves to take their trials: & have been given Cent under Guard to the Town of Cambridge in Dorchester County, where they now remain near half of them confined to the County Goal & the Remainder in the Court House: where notwithstanding they have experienced every alleviation of a painfull Confinement which men in their distressed Situation had a Right to expect, yet the Age & Infirmity of some, & the extremities Situation of the family of others, joined to the heavy Imputation of Guilt under which they all at present indiscriminately lye, make them anxiously wish to have the nature of their several Offences enquired into, & the Determination of their Country upon them. Your Petitioners beg leave further to represent to your Excellency that several of them have been committed without even knowing except from Report what the Offence is with which they charged: or having an Opportunity of furnishing themselves with sufficient Cloathing to defend them from the Inclemency of the approaching Season: though they are informed that in the ordinary Course of Business they are not to expect a Tryal until the Sitting of the General Court in April next. Your Petitioners under such Circumstances as these, however little entitled they may at present appear to the favor of Government, flatter themselves that in Compassion to the Sufferings of their family, if not to themselves Your Excellency will be pleased to appoint a special Court for hearing & determining their several Offences at such Place and Place such Time, as your Excellency shall judge proper.

Your Petitioners humbly apprehend that your Excellency will the rather grant them this indulgence, as much Expence will be saved to the State, & such of them as are innocent, if any such there be, & they hope out of so great a number as forty eight, there are many, may be saved from a long, painfull, & even dangerous Imprisonment, as the flux is already among them: A Punishment which if not severe enough for the Guilty, is certainly too severe for the Innocent. Your Petitioners therefore humbly submit their Case to the Consideration of your Excellency and yr Honors, and hope you will grant them such Relief, as the Laws and Constitution of their Country will permit. And yr Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c. Cambridge 3 Oct. 1777.

Somerset.
Isaac Marshall
Pennell Orton

Worcester.
Benjamin Henderson
George Furnace
Robert Gilles