

95 The Branch on motion appointed Messrs. Smace and Kell a Committee of elections -

The following communication was received from the Mayor enclosing the copy of a petition therein mentioned -

Gentlemen of the City Council

Having obtained the enclosed copy of a petition to the Legislature I have deemed it my duty to lay it before you and as the subject thereof may deeply involve the interests of this Corporation I submit it to your serious consideration

13<sup>th</sup> Novem. 1807. Thos<sup>g</sup> Smith

which said petition was in the following words

To the General Assembly of Maryland

The petition of the subscribers respectfully sheweth that the Corporation of the City of Baltimore have passed an Ordinance by which they compel the inspectors of flour to take out licences and to pay for the same one thousand dollars annually which sum goes to the use of the City - It is the alarming principle on which the Corporation have acted that your petitioners wish to present to your view - They presume it was never intended by the Legislature to make the State at large support the expenditures of the Corporation of the City of Baltimore yet acting on the principle embraced in the said Ordinance and which they with equal Justice may as they may so increase the price of inspection and the price of the licence to the inspectors, as to make the single articles of flour pay the whole City expenses and thus indirectly make every Farmer in the State tributary to them. - Your petitioners do not now cannot believe, it was ever the intention of the Legislature that such an extensive and dangerous power should be vested in the Corporation more especially when they look at the 10<sup>th</sup> section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States which says "No State shall without the consent of Congress lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports except

what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws?" 86  
Your petitioners would further state that application by petition has been made to the Corporation for a repeal of the said Ordinance but without effect and that they have no objection to the inspectors receiving ample compensation for their services but at the same time they think it a grievance to pay a tax in this indirect way for the support of the City of Baltimore. Your petitioners therefore pray that you may take the subject into your consideration and grant such relief as you in your wisdom may see proper -

John Stricker

Ellicott & Co.

Isaac Tyson

Solomon Potts

James Carroll

Greetham & Devereaux

Henry Brice

James Owings

Dennis Lambert Howland

Aud<sup>r</sup> & Tho<sup>s</sup> Ellicott

Charles Crook

En<sup>d</sup> Paul Stump

Sheppard & McClonkey

Hollingsworth & Worthington

Charles Gwinne & Co

Benj & Sa<sup>l</sup> Ellicott

Edw<sup>d</sup> Gwinne

Sam<sup>l</sup> Hollingsworth

Jesse Tyson

Wm Patterson

Owings & Cheston

Wm Jessop

Jno Ellicott Jr.

Jesse Hollingsworth

Samuel Rymer

On motion it was resolved that the above petition with the communication of the Mayor be referred to a Joint Committee of both branches, and that Messrs. Cooke and Lorman be a Committee on the part of this branch to join such members as shall be chosen by the 2<sup>d</sup> Branch -

The following message was thereupon transmitted to the said 2<sup>d</sup> branch -

Gentlemen of the 2<sup>d</sup> Branch

We have appointed Messrs. Cooke and Lorman to join such members as you may appoint as a Joint Committee to whom to refer the Mayor's communication, in order that they may consider of and report upon the same

By order J. A. Moore & Co