Sir,

Retaining the most perfect and grateful Recollection of the Benevolence and urbanity of your Department towards me on various Occasions, particularly on an interesting Crisis at Annapolis, I should derive real Happiness in being able to render you an essential Service, and you may be assured that whenever a favorable Opportunity presents thus to gratify myself, I shall most eagerly seize it — altho I have been long silent with respect to your Business, yet I have not been unmindful of it — but have been several Times in Negotiation with those who look with wishful Eyes towards your well-situated valuable Tract — Nothing decisive, however, hath yet taken place — but Mr Bowly, in particular, hath promised in a few Days to give me his ultimatum, i.e. that he will make a Proposition on his Part, leaving it to your Consideration whether to accept or reject — as soon as this is obtained I shall give it all possible Despatch, at which Time

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