

2 April 1779  
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Gentlemen

Considering that your State is always deemed so feeble in Internal strength and resources, that her defense when attacked must chiefly be performed by the neighboring States, and must fall more immediately on North Carolina from her circumstances, and contiguous Situation.

Considering also that a Question now before Congress Involves the continuance of Hostilities, even tho' our Liberty, Sovereignty and Independence, absolute and unlimited, as well in matters of Government as Commerce shall be acknowledged and secured, unless Great Britain will acknowledge a right of Fishing on all Banks and Coasts of N<sup>o</sup>. America which were exclusively reserved to Britain by the Treaties of Utrecht and Paris, as fully as the Inhabitants of the Countries now composing the United States of North America enjoyed when Subjects to Great Britain; a right which we deem more extensive than can with Justice be insisted on, and which our Allies by their engagements are not bound to assist us in Commanding for, and which the Minister Plenipotentiary of France assures us his Court can not agree to continue the war for.

Considering also that in a late vote upon the Question alluded to, Mr. Laurens one of the Delegates from your State gave his voice for continuing Hostilities for the aforesaid object, even tho' our allies should not be in a Condition to assist us

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from which we infer, that he relies on a degree of strength and resources in your State which is unknown to us, or on a mistaken Idea of the strength and resources of North Carolina. His long experience, and intimate knowledge of his own Country induce us readily to admit the former as the ground of his opinion. But we esteem it our Duty to inform you that in case of the continuance of the War for the open object North Carolina is not in a Condition to make any exertions for the Defense of S.<sup>o</sup> Carolina, nor do we believe she will be inclined to make any

We beg you to consider that in the event of a continuance of the war your Country will probably experience all the calamities which can be apprehended from an Insolent, Intemperate, and rapacious enemy, from your own Slaves armed against their former Masters, from the Savages excited to more bloody and merciless dispositions and conducted by leaders who have Inclination and abilities to make their power and proivity as effectual against you as possible.

Upon general matters we would not presume  
to lay our thoughts thus before you; how inadequate  
the resources of the Continent are to a continuance  
of war without allies, & what must most probably  
be the next we suggest most to you, your partici-  
pation in the public Councils <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ unnecessary  
and improper; but upon a matter so supremely  
interesting, and which so peculiarly affects the  
lives and properties of the State which you &  
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We beg you to consider that in the event of a continuance of the war your Country will probably experience all the calamities which can be apprehended from an Insolent, [?], [?], and Rapacious enemy, from your own Slaves armed against their former Masters, from the Savages excited to more bloody and merciless dispositions and conducted by leaders who have Inclination and abilities to make their force and ferocity as effectual against you as Possible.

Upon general matters we would not presume to lay our thoughts thus before you; how inadequate the resources of the Continent are to a continuance of war without allies, & what must most probably be the concerns we suggest not to you, your [?]

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be involved Desolation to our Countries and the  
most unbounded Ravages and carnage to their In-  
habitants of all ages and sexes, and which may  
fall with peculiar weight and Injury on the  
State we represent, upon such a matter we  
cannot dispense with offering you this  
official memorial, and we hope you  
will consider our Depostulation as flowing  
from the anxious Concern we feel for our Coun-  
try and that it will have with you its due  
weight.

We inclose a Copy of a letter which we  
mean to address to the Geo<sup>m</sup> of our State, we  
wish the Conduct of your Delegates on this Im-  
portant affair may supersede the necessity  
we deem ourselves under of sending it forward  
We have the Honor to be

Gentlemen  
Yours very ob.<sup>ts</sup>  
J. Penn  
Whitmell Hill.  
Tho Burke

The Honble Henry Laurens }  
and W. H. Drayton Delegates }  
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