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°. 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

. 2 Atorit 1779. Gentlemin Considering that your State is always deemed sofuble in Internal strength and resources, that her define when attacked must chiefly be performed by the Mightowing Soute, and must fall more Immedi: : ably on North Carolina from his incumstances and configuous Stuation. Considering also that a dustion now before Congreso Invalves the continuance of Rostilities, wen the our Liberty, Sauringthe and Independence, absolute and unlimitted, as well in matters of yearsment as Commerce shall be asknowledged and secured, unly Great Britain will acknowledge a right of Fishing on all Banks and Coads of M. aminia which were exclusively resured to Britain they the Treaties of thucht and Paris, as fully as the Inhabitants of the Countries now compasing the witho State of North america injuyed when Subjected ques Britain; a right which we sum more taknsive than can with Insher be insisted an, and which our allies by their engagements are not leavened to afrist us ha Contrading for, and which the minust Thripohn hang of France afores no his Court can not agree to continue the war for. Considering also that in a lab were when the Question alluded to, Mr. Lamino one of the Delyste from your State gave his voice for continuing Hashlikes for the apouraid object, wen the out allies should not be in a Condition to assist as

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 101272 Date: April 2, 1779

Description: Penn, Hill, and Burke to the Delegates of South Carolina

from which we dofer, that he arlies an a digue of thingth and resources in your State which is unknown to us, or on a mistaken I dea of the Thingth and resames of North Carolina. The 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 continuous of the War for the afour? object North Carolina is not in a Condition to make any exertions for the Define of S. Carolina, nor do use believe she will be inclined to make any We beg you to consider that in the went of a continuance of the war your country will propably experience all the calamities which can be apprehended from an Insolut, Delisthis Instated, and Saparious enemy, from your own Slaves armed against their former Masters, from The Javages excited to more bloody and mirily dispositions and conducted buy headers who have Inclination and abilities to make thin force and procity as effectual against you ashopible. Whon general matters we would not known so larg our thoughts their before you; how inadequate The resources of the Continent are to a continuous af war withour allies, I what must most probably be the went we suggest out to you, your flasti cipation in the publick Councils on ahiguanufrage and improper; but upon a matter so suprimely Intuising, and which so peculiarly affects the lives and proporties of the States which you & we have the honor to represent, in which may

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 our esteem is our Duty to inform you that in case of the continuance of the War for the aforesd objects North Carolina is not in a Condition to make any exertions for the Defence of S.° 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, [?], [?], 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 [?]

[?] in the publick Councils make ^ [?] and improper; but upon a matter so supremely Interesting, and which so peculiarly affects the lives and Properties of the States which you & we have the honor to represent, in which may

be involved Desolution to our Countries and the most unbounded havage and carneye to their dor: habitants of all ages and sixes, and which may fall with peculiar weight and Injump on the State we represent, upon such a shatter we Cannot disprove with officing you this official mimorial, and we hope you will consider our dapostulation as flowing from the anxious Concern we fel for our lown. try and that it will have with you its due We inclose a copy of a letter which we mean to addup to the year of am State one wish the Conduct of your Delyaho on this In portant affair may super side the newfity we deem our selves under of sending it somme We have the Hanor to be The Handle Stiny Lawrens and WH. Daughon Delyates for South Carolina

be involved Desolation to our Countries and the most unbounded Ravages and carnage to them Inhabitants 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 dispence with offering you this official memorial, and we hope you will consider our postulation as flowing from the anxious Concern we feel for our Country and that it will have with you its due weight.

We inclose a Copy of a letter which we mean to address to the Yeo^m of our State, we wish the Conduct of your Delegates on this Important affair may superside the necessity we deem ourselves under of sending it forward We have the Honor to be

Gentlemen
Your very h^m Serv.^{ts}

J. Penn

Whitmell Hill

Tho Burke

The Honorable Henry Laurens and W. H. Drayton Delegates for South Carolina