

[Council to His Ex<sup>y</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington.]

January 28  
Liber No. 78  
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We were yesterday honored with your Favor of the 22<sup>d</sup>. We should have been very happy, had it reached us a few Days sooner, and before the Rising of the General Assembly, that we might have laid before them the Sentiments contained therein, which we are well assured would have operated as the greatest Stimulus to their Exertions, though we believe they wanted no additional Incentive to comply as fully as possible with the Requisitions your Excellency alludes to. After a great Deal of Time spent, and long Deliberation on the Subject, they passed the Supply Bill, of which the enclosed is a Copy, and we much question, were we to call them together again, whether they would be able to do more under our present Circumstances. When they next meet, which is to be the first of June, by Adjournment, and probably may be earlier, the Subject Matter of your Letter, shall be the first Business submitted to their Consideration. The Assembly also passed a Bill for recruiting our Line giving the entire Direction of the Business to General Smallwood, and providing Means for furnishing him with 20,000<sup>l</sup>. Specie for the Purpose. We are inclined to believe the Bill would be effectual, provided we could be supplied with 2500 Suits of Cloathing, which at the Desire of the General Assembly, we have requested of Congress, and as your Excellency must know that we have, for the last two Years, furnished our Line entirely with this Article, without the smallest Assistance from Congress, we hope you will not deem us unreasonable in soliciting your Influence to have our Application complied with the more especially as we can say with great Truth, that it is absolutely out of our Power to provide for the present Year.

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[Council to President of Congress]

Ibid.

The General Assembly, upon Information that Congress had imported or purchased a large Quantity of Soldiers Cloathing for the Army, directed us to apply, in a particular Manner, through your Excellency, for twenty five hundred Suits for our Line, which we hope will be furnished to us, as it is absolutely beyond our Ability to provide this Article. We need not remind Congress that we have, for these two Years past, clothed our Men entirely, without the smallest Assistance from the Continent. If the Whole of the Cloathing requested cannot be supplied immediately, we would wish to be informed when we may expect to receive it. The Assembly have passed a Recruiting Bill which we believe would be effectual, provided we had Cloathing to give the old Soldiers, as well as the new Recruits. We are also directed by the Assembly to make Application for 3000 Stand of Arms, an Article, of which we are almost destitute, from having lent to the Continent, in the Year 1776, upwards of 3000 Stand, to arm our Regulars and the Flying Camp, none of which were returned, and at different Times since that Period, to arm the