

Robert Smith to Tench Coxe, Baltimore, 31 July 1788 (excerpt)¹

We are all in Motion here about the ensuing Election of Representatives in our General Assembly. From a suspicion that the Anti-foederalists have not yet relinquished the expectation of defeating the proposed General Government, many of us are impressed with the Opinion that those only ought to be admitted into our Publick Councils, who will sincerely and heartily endeavour to put the Government effectually in motion. It is, therefore, our fixed intention to oppose the Election of our former Delegates Mr Chase and Mr. McMechen.

It was mentioned by Mr. M--d--n in passing through this Town, that a suspicion is entertained in Virginia, that there is a regular correspondence between the Anti-foederalists of the different States--that they are yet acting in Concert--and that there is in Contemplation a settled System of Opposition to the Government. What foundation there is for such an apprehension I know not. But should you be in the possession of any facts that would tend to create a conjecture of this kind, you will particularly oblige me in furnishing me with them.--It is to be favoured with the result [of?] [your?] enquiries upon this subject, that [I] have pressed upon your attention the circumstance of our Election.

1. RC, Coxe Papers, PHi.