

MSA SC 6205-1-5

William Smallwood to President of the Maryland Council

21 July 1781

Summary: Smallwood encloses a petition to the Governor and Council from the officers of the Maryland Line. The officers have expended their own money to support themselves and their soldiers, and are owed reimbursement from the state.

21 July 1781

Gentlemen

Impressed with the fullest Confidence that you will do every thing in your Power to obviate the Difficulties represented in the enclosed Address¹ from the Officers of the Maryland Line, the removal of which must tend to facilitate the March of the Troops to join the Southern Army. I have taken the Liberty to submit their Sentiments to the Consideration of your honourable Board.

Having experienced their Alacrity generally in the execution of Orders. I cannot but sympathise with them on their present Embarrassments and Lament, necessity that their situation should be such as to constrain them even to contemplate for a Moment the necessity of a different Conduct. My Regard for them and my Desire to Promote the Service induces me to solicit you on their behalf and to request that you would grant them a sum of the N Emission² adequate to the Discharge of their debts unavoidably incurred by some whilst on Duty and by others where want of Command obliged them to remain in the State, that they may Exercise the small some of specie already advance and that at may be here after advanced Agreeable to the to the Directions of the Assembly to defray their Expenses during the present Campaign.

¹ The enclosed petition has not been located. Another account of the officers' grievances was forwarded to the Governor and Council in December 1780. See Maryland State Papers, Brown Books, vol. 8, no. 23 [MSA S991-9].

² New emission, i.e. the newly issued batch of paper currency.