

The importance and utility of opening a more direct and expeditious channel of communication between the Chesapeake Bay, than that afforded by the circuitous and difficult navigation of the Potomac River, is so obvious that I need urge nothing to your Excellency to illustrate its advantages. And it is confidently believed that the contemplated lateral Canal will afford the shortest, most direct, expeditious, and easiest to be made channel, that it is practicable to open.

In full confidence that your Excellency is disposed to view with favor and approbation all laudable undertakings for improving the internal condition of the country, and that you will take pleasure in affording all proper countenance and aid to the work in contemplation, I beg leave to express a hope that you may find it proper and convenient to cause the examination and survey which I have had the honor to ask, to be made at an early day.

With the highest consideration,

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obed't serv't.

DAN'L. MARTIN.