

humbly beg that for the future when any Person do solicit your Majesty to disabuse any of our Laws your Majesty will be graciously pleased to allow us to be heard before you do grant our Request— It is further taken Notice of that we have straggled one Act against the Divulge of false News, which was of very large Extent and by Experience found to be rather hurtful by becoming a Inare to ignorant and unwary People and abused by malicious Informers to that Purpose then applyed to the Punishment of ill disposed People so that it has been let fall by former Assemblies and thought not fit to be renewed since there is other good Laws to bring them to Punishment who shall any ways maliciously divulge any Thing in Derogation of your Majesty's Honour which shall always be dear and tender to us

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty

We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Delegates of the Province of Maryland and now convened in a General Assembly have taken into Consideration your Majesty's Order in Council to our late Governor John Seymour Esq relating to the making a Law for the settling a Fine on Ordinary Licenses on your Majesty's Secretary of Maryland and having read and considered the Complaint of Sir Thomas Lawrence to your Majesty and the other Papers relating thereto which his Excellency was pleased to lay before us do beg Leave to acquaint your Majesty we have made strict Search into the Records of this Province and therein find that in the Year one thousand five hundred and sixty two, there was an Act made for the Encouragement of Ordinary Hoopers without any Fine given for Licenses— That in the Year one thousand six hundred seventy eight an Act was made for regulating Ordinaries and advancing the Revenue of the Lord Proprietary who had then the Government of this Province and thereby was given to his said Lordship for every Ordinary License in Saint Mary's City two thousand Pounds of Tobacco and in the Counties twelve hundred Pounds of Tobacco which is the first Act ever settled a Fine on Ordinary Licenses and that but Temporary after which the Lord Proprietary out of his special Favour to his Secretary (they being his Relations) did give and grant the Profits arising from the Ordinary Licenses to them but we find no Act of Assembly for settling the same on the Secretary's during his Lordship's Government. We find in the Year 1692 being the Year his late Majesty King William of Glorious Memory took upon him the Government of this Province the then Assembly knowing the Profits arising from Ordinary Hoopers to be no Branch of the Secretary's Office did by an Act made that Year give to the then Governor solely for every License to hoop Ordinary at Saint Mary's City two thousand Pounds of Tobacco and in the Counties twelve hundred Pounds of Tobacco which Act was to continue but three Years Sir Thomas Lawrence being then Secretary of Maryland who upon seeing the Act and another the same Session introduced an Act