

necessary to order the Militia of this County on duty to guard the frontier on the Bay Shore &c. which they chearfully complied with but previous thereto were under a necessity of making application for arms & ammunition. We were in hopes that when it came to the test we should find many of them prepared with private property in ammunition, but in this find we were deceived. There remained with us a barrel of powder and some ball sent from new town last fall by the Council of Safety, which we have distributed tho it appears to be very indifferent and not such as we think men ought to hazard their lives with this has gone but a small way in supplying the Companies. The people grew exceedingly clamorous. We have been under a necessity of distributing what little we have of private property, but the whole put together would scarce make three rounds a piece for the companies. To what lengths they may go if not shortly supplied we cannot say, but fear when they find that upon repeated applications, they are not supplied with the means of defence they may despond & tamely submit to such ravages as these Barbarians may think proper to commit. From the late conduct of the men of our County we have not the least doubt of their spirit and firmness and are fully satisfied they will make a bold and resolute stand in defence of the liberties of their country if properly furnished with Arms and ammunition. We are dayly in expectation of another visit from the enemy and have therefore thought it our indispensable duty to lay the weak & defenceless state of our county before you not doubting but that on your being thus truly informed of our situation you will immediately order us such a supply of Arms & Ammunition as may be necessary for the defence of the County as without it we shall be under the dreadful necessity of submitting to such depredations as our enemies may think proper to commit, It is currently reported and believed here that the arms and ammunition for this province are arrived at Philadelphia and if this report is true, and we cannot (in our distressed situation) be more expeditiously supplied we would undertake by your direction to send a Waggon or two to Philadelphia for arms and ammunition if you think proper to give an order for the delivery of them to us: Captain Woolford has now upwards of eighty men of his Company enlisted, are a daily expence to the province and in their present situation of no real service there being but one man of the whole that has a gun. We beg leave to report to you that M^r Thomas Ennalls nominated as the supervisor of our Salt Petre works has refused to act. We have advertised for another and as soon as the vacancy is filled shall inform you.

We are Gen^t with regard & Esteem Your ob^t hum Serv^t

Signed p order of the Committee of observation.

James Murray :