

U. H. J. In answer to your Excellencys demands in Council relating to the Ships now in the Country we whose names are hereunder written do in the first Place humbly request that such Ships as concern us being now in a forwardness to sail may be Cleared as soon as got ready and in Order thereto do presume to Offer the following Reasons viz^t

1 Our Provisions falling short and finding at present Great Scarcity of such things in the Country will of necessity by staying force us to Great Charge & Extremity

2 The time of year draws on for the Worms biting which by staying may hazard the loss of our ships

3 We Greatly stand in fear of our mens falling sick as is Customary to strangers Summering in this Country

4 If we should be delayed in our Voyages and our men sicken upon us our designs would be wholly frustrated there being no Seamen possible to be had here

p. 863 That as to Captain Barbers Proposall of Convoying the Ships to within Sixty Leagues of Ireland will be no wise Serviceable to us considering we shall be then left in the Greatest danger besides most of us designs north about which is a Contrary way all which is submitted by

Your Excellencys most Obedient &
Humble Servants

John Hamilton	Lawrence Swarbreack
Jos: Peacock	Andrew Malpas
Richard Hill Jun ^r	John Rock

Signed by Philip Haward for John Sanders John Loung
 John Ribton Mate on behalf of Tho^s Monke Tho^s Sutton
 Signed by Tho^s Sutton for Robert Grason Philip Harwood
 Signed by Tho^s Brane for Abraham Tuckett John Oliver
 Signed by John Watson for Christo Buskill Richard Chesheer
 M^r Dent for Captain Henry Browne
 Signed by James Brown in the Behalf of M^r John Lancaster

The which being read and sundry London Merchants being present were asked if they had any thing to say in Objection thereto but they Objecting nothing It is Ordered this day in Council that the Ships whereof the said Petitioners are masters be Cleared upon the Proviso as in an Order of this Board of the 4th of May Instant relating to Clearing Ships is Expressed.

The Collectors and Naval Officers of Patuxent and Potomack Districts being present were asked if all the Masters &c have had notice who make answer that they all had notice but were not all come Ordered thereupon that no Masters of Ships now