

To the honourable the House of Delegates.  
The Petition of the Freemen of                      County  
Most humbly sheweth.

Lib. J. R.  
& U. S.

That we his Majesty's loyal and faithful Subjects, are sincerely grieved to find ourselves under an absolute necessity of complaining to you, that we conceive our most holy Religion and valuable Constitution to be in the greatest Danger from the Swarms of Jesuits, Priests, and others disaffected to our most gracious sovereign coming among us, and building, and erecting Seminaries, and public Mass Houses, wherein with Impunity they teach and propogate, their damnable, and treasonable Doctrines. that we are taxed yearly for the use of the Proprietary of this Province the sum of 12<sup>d</sup> for every Hhd of Tobacco, and 14<sup>d</sup> for every Ton of Burthen, of all Vessels trading in or to this Province and not properly belonging thereto, without and Law that we know of for so doing, which we cannot but think an Encroachment on our Liberties, and Privileges, and that we labour under many other Grievances, the Particulars of which it would be here tedious to enumerate, as we cannot hope after so many Trials, and Disappointments to have a Law assented to, and passed by the other Branch of the Legislature, enabling us to raise a Fund for the support of an Agent to lay our case in a proper manner before his most sacred Majesty from whom alone we hope for, and expect Relief and protection, we therefore most earnestly entreat you as this Juncture, as our present Circumstances seem absolutely to require it that you would consider of, and fix upon some justifiable and Legal Expedient for that Purpose, and you may depend on all the Assistance in the power of those who are in duty &c.

Which Petitions being read, it is the Advice of this Board to his Excellency, that in his Speech at the proroguing of the Assembly, he be pleased to take notice of the same, and it is also thought adviseable to send circular Letters to the Magistrates of the several Counties of this Province to enquire into all seditious Reports, with respect to the Administration of this Government, in order to disquiet the Minds of the People therewith which have or may hereafter be spread, within their several Counties, and in Case of Discovery of the Authors of such Reports, that they make Report thereof to the Governor and Council with all Expedition.

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May 25<sup>th</sup> 1756: Ordered that the following Proclamation issue.

Whereas the present Posture of Affairs, and the Situation