

L. H. J. the light of the Holy Gospel manifested by the Blessed Author  
 Lib. No. 45 thereof and as purely taught in the Church of England by law  
 established

Whatever light the Act of 1704 may appear to your Excellency in we are still of Opinion it was never intended by the Legislators to grant the duty therein mentioned to the Lord Baltimore his Heirs or Assigns, and that he is not any way within the Letter or meaning thereof to that purpose as this must be set right by higher Authority we shall submit thereto not in the least doubting from our most Gracious Liege Lord and Sovereign an Impartial determination in this or any other Point on equal application and a fair and clear State and which We humbly think ought not to be interrupted; however it is attempted to be in our Case here whether from self Interest, or Sinister design may appear

We are very sorry to have any cause of contention with your Excellency for we faithfully assure you we desire to live quietly and peaceably as becoming dutiful and good Subjects, and hope it will not be attributed to us as a fault that we insist on our undoubted right and on Truth in doing which we shall avoid any Invective or Indirect means or Innuendoes

It clearly appears to this House as it did to their Committee and which they are ready to evince and to that purpose ordered their Clerk to attend that the Act made in 1692 Entituled An Act for settlement of an Annual Revenue upon their Majestys Governor within this province for the time being and recorded in Liber L L folio 21 &c<sup>a</sup> was at A Session of Assembly held at the Port of Annapolis the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1699 continued as a law of this Province and as such is recorded among other Laws then past and continued in another Record Book L L folio 130 &c<sup>a</sup> with some small Variation from the former and is likewise named in a Catalogue of the titles of laws which are continued in force by an Act passed at the  
 p. 886 said Session of 1699 and recorded in the same Book and which Act of 1699 is acknowledged to be such by both Houses of Assembly in several Messages which passed at a Sesseion Anno 1723

We Omit saying more in reply to your Excellencys answer than that we assure you we have Considered this matter cooly and with impartial Deliberation as we shall every other that relates to the Welfare of our Constituents but we cannot think it safe to come into A Confirmatory or perpetual law which your Excellency seems to insist upon for support of his Lordships Government altho we are ready and willing to do any reasonable thing in Our Power to procure a good understanding between the Government and people We humbly hope that the Sacrificing the security of our property Right and Just Liberties will not be insisted on to gain that end, which was read approved and ordered to be Ingrossed