

January 15 State. I should sooner have done myself the honor of writing to your Excellency on this Subject but that I hoped to have had it laid before you more fully than could be done in writing by a Gentleman who was to have passed on other public business by the way of Annapolis the late events in this State having retarded his setting out I think it my duty no longer to postpone explanation on this head. Your Excellency cannot be unapprised of the powerful armies of our enemies at this time in this & the Southern States, and that their future plan is to push their Successes in the same quarter by still larger reinforcements. The forces to be opposed to these must be proportionably great, & these forces must be fed. By whom are they to be fed? Georgia & South Carolina are annihilated, at least as to us, by the requisition to us to send provisions into your State it is to be supposed that none are to come to the Southern army from any State north of this; for it would seem inconsistent that while we should be sending north your State & others beyond you should be sending your Provisions South upon North Carolina then already exhausted by the ravages of two armies & on this State are to depend for subsistence those bodies of men who are to oppose the greater part of the enemy's force in the United States, the subsistence of the German & of half the British Conventioneers To take a view of this matter on the Continental requisitions of November 4. 1780 for specific quotas of provision it is observable that N. Carolina & Virginia are to furnish 10,471,740 lbs of animal food & 13529 barrels of flour while the States north of these will yield 25293310 lbs of animal food & 106,471 barrels of flour. If the greater part of the British armies be employed in the South it is to be supposed the greater part of the American force will be sent there to oppose them but should this be the case, while the distribution of the provisions is so very unequal would it be proper to render it still more so by withdrawing a part of our contributions to the support of posts northward of us? it would certainly be a great convenience to us to deliver a portion of our Specifics at Fredericktown rather than in Carolina but I leave it to your Excellency to judge whether this would be consistent with the general good or safety, instead of sending aids of any kind to the northward it seems but too certain that unless very substantial & timely assistance is receiv'd from thence our enemies are yet far short of the ultimate term of their successes. I beg leave therefore to refer to your Excellency whether the specifics of your State as far as shall be necessary had not better be applied to the support of the posts within it, for which your quota is much more than sufficient, or were it otherwise, whether those of the States north of you had not better be called on than to detract any thing from the resources of the Southern opposition already much too small for the encounter to which it is left. I am far from wishing to count or measure our contributions by the requisitions of Congress were they ever so much beyond these I should readily strain them in aid of any one of our