

April 25 [And. Buchanan, Balt County, to His Excell^y Tho^s Sim Lee Esq^r]

The inclosed letter from the Inhabitants of Balt Town which I take the liberty to lay before you, Contains a request for a Certain Governmental support to enable them to Compleat a Galley they are fitting out at a great expence, and which I understand is to be applied on a very general scale for the defence of the State.

Under these Circumstances I cannot help giving their Application my full Consent—and beg leave to recommend it to your Consideration. We are all so exposed that I wish very sincerely the fines may enable them to finish their undertakings. It would be well not only for this Town but for a great part of our exposed Coast—the Inhabitants have Contributed very liberally but without some such support as they have asked I suspect their undertakings must fail

April 25

[To Brigadier Gen^l Buchanan]

Baltimore 25th April 1781

The inhabitants of Baltimore foreseeing that it will exceed their abilities to complete the galley which they have undertaken to fit out for the Bay service, and apprehensive that it must be given up, unless immediate succour can be drawn from some other source than individual contributions, take the liberty to request your interposition with the Governor and council, that the fines levied on the Town Militia, from time to time, may be appropriated to this purpose.

The galley has been pushed forward with so much dispatch, that we are promised she can be ready for service in less than two weeks. We are fully persuaded, reasoning upon the extensive advantages to be derived from her, in the protection of a great extent of coast property, and by keeping up the usual communication between the opposite shores, that Government will not hesitate a moment to indulge our request; especially, if it be considered, that it is only giving a permission to defend a considerable part of the community, by money drawn wholly from ourselves. Even on a principle of partial protection, it might be asked with propriety, and granted without injustice. But when the application of the galley is to be general, we would imagine the Governor and Council the last persons in the world to assign reasons for its refusal.

Confiding in your willingness to promote the public good, and in the wisdom of our administration, always employed to obviate the sufferings of the people, we do not doubt, but we will be enabled to finish a plan projected upon motives that every citizen must approve.