

Such is the situation of the Merchants at this Period, that they are
obliged to send their wares to other States even for the articles
of export. — That Annapolis and Baltimore are now
suffering by the ^{interruption of the} usual intercourse with the Eastern Shore ~~by the~~
from whence they were supplied with large quantities of ~~various~~
Provisions, the wood and Materials for building.

That the Port of Baltimore, the principal Seat of
Trade in this State, is exposed to the Incursions and Ravages of the
Enemies Cruizers, the Fleet and Guns totally unguarded and defenceless
and liable to Destruction from both external and internal Enemies
the latter of which are too numerous among us.

Your Memorialists therefore pray your Honors to take this
their Petition into Consideration, and when you reflect that that
Policy is illiberal and illfounded, which views the Protection of
Commerce, only as a Tax on the whole Community to favour
the Interest of Part, and that it has always been the Object
of every well regulated State to view the Land and trading
Interests, as only branches of one general System supported by, and
Supporting each other, your Honors, we have no doubt, will adopt
such necessary and timely Measures, as will afford Protection
to the Merchants, and Citizens inhabiting on the Rivers and bays
running through this State, more especially when it is evident, that
the Tax paid by the public in the Article of Salt only, arising
from the want of Protection, is more than the Duties of Taxes
Exigence, such Protection would amount to, and

J. Memorialists as in duty bound