

We have been specially instructed by this convention to invoke the further aid of Congress to this great undertaking. In fulfilling the duty which has been confided to us, your memorialists will abstain from any minute exposition of the considerations, whether general or individual, which have on former occasions been presented to your honorable bodies as furnishing inducements, to the Government of the United States, to embark in this undertaking. This subject has heretofore been presented to Congress with so much ability, and is now so thoroughly comprehended in all its details, as to render any further illustrations from us wholly unnecessary.

It will be our task to bring before your honorable bodies certain facts and considerations, applicable to the existing state of things, such as appear to the convention to furnish irresistible inducements to the Government of the Union, to lend a favorable ear to our application for further aid.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal had its origin in the enlarged wisdom of the enlightened citizens of Virginia and Maryland; which distinctly perceived the practicability of improving the navigation of the noble stream which formed their common boundary; and, that great public as well as private benefits would result from the accomplishment of this object. The Legislatures of those States appointed commissioners to examine the subject; and, to enable them to perform fully the duty which had been thus entrusted to their care, these commissioners associated with them, in their labors, skilful and accomplished engineers. The report which was made by this body fully developed and established the feasibility of the project, and with great minuteness of detail exhibited the expense which would be incurred in its accomplishment, and the means by which its cost might be defrayed. Such was the character of this paper, that it was thought proper by the constituted authorities of Maryland to submit it to the consideration of the Government of the United States.

A reference to this document cannot but satisfy your honorable bodies that the object then contemplated, though in its scale far inferior, in every particular, to that to which your consideration is invited, was obviously within the means of the parties immediately interested in its accomplishment. Those parties looked to the improvement of the navigation of the river Potomac only, from Cumberland to tide water, by a continuous canal of thirty feet in width at the surface, twenty at