

May it please your Excellency

In Obedience to your Excellency's Order in Council of the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of January last: The Committee have had under their Consideration the Memorial of William Waller Esq<sup>r</sup> representing that he is engaged by the Contract with the Governor, and Royal Officers of the Spanish Garrison at St. Augustine on the Coast of Florida to furnish that Garrison with Provisions but being now prohibited by the Embargo laid by your Excellency's Order in Council of the 29<sup>th</sup> of November last he hopes such Order will be made therein as the case may require:

The Committee upon duly weighing the Proofs exhibited with the Memorial, and other since taken find that this Garrison hath been furnished with Supplies from hence formerly by Contract from William Waller the Memorialist's Father, and since with the Memorialist from the Year 1756 to the present time except during the late War with Spain, that St. Augustine is a Place of very little if any Trade, consisting only of a Garrison. That the Inhabitants cultivate no more Land than is necessary for Kitchen Gardens, and that all Provisions imported by any other person than the Contractor or by him over and above the Quantities demanded for the Use of the Garrison, are liable to Confiscation, where it is apparent they almost wholly rely for Subsistence, on the Supplies the Memorialist is obliged to furnish in Virtue of his Contract, the Breach whereof will subject him to the Forfeiture of the Accais due to him amounting to sixty thousand Spanish milled Pieces of Eight. The Committee also find that the provisions furnished by the Memorialist for the Garrison in the Year 1756: and what is demanded for the Year 1757. are the Quantities specified in the Schedule No. 2. annexed to the Memorial, and that the Number of Inhabitants at St. Augustine may be computed to exceed two thousand.

These Facts appearing sufficiently attested to the Committee they humbly conceive it is his Majesty's Directions, for the laying the present Embargo cannot be construed to extend to a neutral Port, under these Circumstances, it being manifest from their Lordship's Letter signifying his Majesty's Commands that the Trade intended to be restrained is the Trade carried on from his Majesty's Colonies to such neutral Ports or Settlements from whence the Enemy have actually drawn Supplies or from whence they might be obtained, and that the preventing this Mischief is the sole Object of the Embargo, and as on the one Hand the Advantages arising to the Public by this Consumption of its Supplies, is necessary at this time are very considerable, without any Guilt to be apprehended from it, and on the other the putting a Stop to the Supplies will not only expose the Memorialist to a very heavy Loss but must inevitably reduce a Garrison belonging to a Province in Possession of his Majesty to extreme Want, as they cannot be early enough apprized of the Embargo to provide against it. The Committee are humbly of Opinion your Excellency may allow the Memorialist to furnish the Garrison according to the Demand made for the present Year in the Schedule No. 2. upon Security being given as required by your Excellency's Order in Council