

the due performance of the contract. A regular system might then be adopted and the Legislature properly aid it by their appropriations and legal provisions - It is with these general views that the resolution was passed, and it would be doubtless unnecessary to enter more into detail in addressing persons so well acquainted with the bearing of every point of the question - Permit me however to observe that the Interest of the Banks concerned would be so much promoted by inviting an extensive trade commerce and intercourse to settle on this route, that it hardly remains a problematical question, whether the location of such an intercourse would not so increase the business of these institutions, and the prosperity of the State in general, that the cost of the road would be but a cheap purchase money for these great and lasting advantages.

with great respect

I am your most obed^t serv^t

John E Howard Junr.

On behalf of the Executive of Maryland.

Baltimore 1st December 1819

Respected friend, J E Howard Junr Esquire.

I duly received thy favour of yesterday, and now have the pleasure of forwarding the decision of the Board on the resolution of the last Session.

"The Board of Managers having considered the resolution of the last Session of the Legislature of Maryland, requesting the Governor and Council to endeavour to ascertain the best terms upon which the Cumberland Bank road can be obtained by the State, &c." And considering the subject as one of vast importance to the public, calculated to produce an immense increase of trade, by facilitating the intercourse with the Western Country, and being willing, as far as consistent with their duty to the Stock holders, to meet the views of the Legislature, have agreed to make the following proposition, it being understood however, that it is the intention of the State to make this a free road, or so nearly so, that all tolls collected upon it shall be appropriated to the defraying the expenses of collecting them, and to the improvement and repairs of the road exclusively.

The managers have no objection to make any modification to this proposition, not inconsistent with their duty to the stock holders, that may be deemed desirable.

The Stock holders will proceed to finish the road agreeably to law, erect gates and Toll Houses, and deliver it to the State as soon as it shall be so completed, (which it is believed will be in all the year 1820) and receive of the State the amount of its cost, supposed to be about \$475,000, in money or stock, bearing such interest as shall be deemed just & reasonable; redeemable at the pleasure of the Legislature. and the Managers will at anytime be happy to meet any committee that may be appointed by the legislature for the purpose of conferring further on the subject.

Signed by direction & on behalf of the board, James Ellicott, Pres^t of the Cumb^d Turnprd Road.