

Annapolis 26th Apr. 1774

Permit us, through you, to lay before Congress, a Copy of a Letter wrote by us to Capt. James Nicholson, and of his Answer thereto. We do not know nor can conjecture what Reasons Capt. Nicholson can have, to think Congress will not disapprove of his Conduct as stated by himself. We know very well, that by the Laws and Constitution of this State, no Man in it can be pressed into any Service, and we flatter ourselves, that any Supposition that the Congress will countenance such a flagrant Violation of the Rights of the People within this State, is as false as injurious to that Honorable Body. We are very desirous that Congress will give immediate Orders for the Discharge of every impressed Man, and we submit to Consideration, whether the Gross Conduct of Capt. Nicholson, and the Contempt in which he holds the executive Power of this State, does not make his Dismission from the Service, not only proper, but, to preserve the Confidence of this State in the Justice of the Congress, and its Regard for our internal Government, highly necessary.

We are Sir with the highest Respect
Your most obed^t. humble Serv^t.

To His Ex^{ty}
The Presid^t of the Congress

Express.

Gent.

Annapolis 26th Apr. 1774

This accompanies our Letter to Congress, complaining of Capt. Nicholson's Conduct, we have inclosed you Copies of that, as well as of a Letter we wrote to and Answer we received from him. We had, as we stated to Capt. Nicholson, received Information of his having pressed a Number of Men, which he avows, and that many People bound to Baltimore by Water hearing of it, turned back, and that even some of the back People had declined going there with their Waggons for fear of being pressed. Capt. Nicholson seems to expect an Approbation from Congress, we shall very reluctantly believe any Countenance will be given by that Body to such tyrannical Proceedings, if there should, we have very little Business in our present Stations, nor do we care how soon it is generally known, if the Fact is that the Power of the Continental Officers is universal and in no wise controulable by any internal Civil Authority in the separate States. Capt. Nicholson's Reasoning will as well prove his Right to press every Man in the State, if he thinks it necessary, as any Man in it. If he saw the Necessity of this Measure, he might have applied to the Assembly, sitting at this Time he began this extraordinary Business. It is much our Wish to have the Resolutions of Congress as soon as possible, as it is likely, if there's any Delay, the Frigate will sail before the Result is known here.

We are Gent
with great Esteem
Y^r most obed^t. Serv^t

The Hon^{ble} Delegates from
Maryland, in Congress