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In Council Birmingham May 1799.

Sir: On Friday by the Post, we received a letter from Genl. Morris, in which he requested that the 10,000 Barrls of Flour which he before desired to be purchased & sent forward to Philadelphia, should be lodged in Stores, under the Inspection of Officers of our Appointment. That it should be at the Order of the Committee of Congress on the Commissary's & Quartermaster's Department. That it should be on the Waters of this Bay, so as to be within the Effects of our open Navigation at a Moments Warning. That it should be collected in Stores, so that it might make him Returns, by the 1st of June at farthest. That what might be got beyond the above Quantity, be stored in like Manner. He says that Orders had been given to stop the Commissaries from purchasing in this State. From this you will see that the Flour Mr. Morris desires you to purchase is wanted with the same View as that 10,000 Barrls and from D. M's Letter and other Circumstances, we conclude more than 10,000 Barrls is desirable. We have, the same Day of the Receipt of G. M's Letter, wrote to Mr. Robt. Buchanan, Purchaser in Baltimore, & Col. Dallam, Purchaser in Starford, advising them of the Change of Destination of the Flour, & requested them to act accordingly as we have since done to Mr. Saml. Gilpin & Mr. Ward Vasey, Purchasers in Cecil & Col. Henry & Col. Perkins, Purchasers in Kent and we wish that you & Col. Thompson would get what may be produced by your Purchases in the Situation desired as soon as is well possible. We do not know the Reason of the Flour's being desired to be lodged at Landings on this Bay, but to prevent the Possibility of an irreparable Stroke, we think it would be best not to collect too great a Quantity at the Head of Elk and therefore we could wish that the Wheat purchased in Queen Anne may, where it is any Way convenient, be ground up in the Neighbourhood. From any Information we have, there are not yet more than about 4000 Barrls including Wheat capable of producing, if procured. We are not at Liberty, by the Act, to stop the Purchase in particular Places and continue it in others. Any Thing above the 10,000 Barrls will be applied to the desired Purpose and the Genl. in Kent & Cecil seem to have been very industrious; for these Reasons we cannot stop the Purchase on the Eastern Shore. Be pleased to send us an Account, the 20th Inst. of the Quantity of your Purchase and where it is, that we may be able to answer Mr. Morris's Expectation. We send by Mr. Larie, an Order in your Favor, & another in Favor of Col. Thompson; pray forward his & advise him of the Part of this which may concern his Conduct; we would write him, but it will delay Mr. Larie and be only repeating We are &c.

Wm. Hemphry Esq.