

In Council, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1794

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We have had the Honour to receive your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March last enclosing the Act of Congress to provide for the defence of certain Ports and harbours in the United States, and another of the same date requesting an authority from this Board to Capt<sup>n</sup> Stricker to mount about eighteen pounders belonging to the State of Maryland at Whetstone Point, and in conformity with the request contained in the last mentioned letter, we have written to Capt<sup>n</sup> Stricker giving him the permission required.

We are not at present in a situation to transmit a complete return of the Ordnance belonging to this State as some of them are at a distance from Annapolis: but we enclose you a list of such as are here, only three of which are of the Calibre wanted.

As the object of requesting this return appears to be the appropriation of these cannon to the fortifications contemplated by the Act of Congress, and as the Port of Annapolis is entirely omitted in that Act, it becomes proper, as connected with the subject, to suggest that the Board will not hold itself authorized to permit the whole of the heavy Ordnance of the State to be applied to the defence of one place to the exclusion of another rendered important by circumstances, and much exposed by situation.

The City of Annapolis is the Seat of the State Government, and of course the Repository of the public records; the residence of many of the public officers concerned in the immediate discharge of the important departments of government; — The place where the Legislature and superior judicatures assemble, and where the Executive is lodged. It contains also the public Treasury, and property of the State and of individuals to a large amount. On account of its situation, especially on the Chesapeake, it is peculiarly liable to annoyance from an enemy if left unfortified; but is at the same time, especially capable of being defended.