

in a respectable state of defence. In every view it's protection is of consequence: Detached from the propriety of sheltering the Capital of the State, where so much is deposited to excite an attack from injury and depredation, the security of this City is in a great degree connected with the convenience of Baltimore and the general Welfare. If fortified, the harbour and the river which contributes to form it, would in case of hazard be an asylum for our vessels superior in strength and convenience to any in the State. On the other hand if permitted to remain defenceless, and left to the mercy of an enemy, the safety of government and of individuals must be withdrawn from it, at a heavy expense, and great inconvenience: The records, of every description must be removed at the hazard of irreparable injury, and our vessels in the Chesapeake deprived of the refuge which a Harbour in all respects commodious, and made peculiarly defensible by nature would present to them in the moment of danger.

From these, and a variety of other considerations, it will readily occur to you that some part of the State's annua ought to be reserved for the defence of Annapolis, if the General Government should not on consideration deem the security of it an object of national concern, and should refuse to take it under it's protection. We have no doubt however that Congress will provide for it's safety, if it should be certain that defensive operations are indispensable. We have the Honour to be &c^a

The Hon^{ble}
Henry Knox Esq^r
Secretary of War

Tho S Lee

In Council, April 2nd 1794

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 26th ultimo enclosing several Acts of Congress, and of being with very great Respect, Sir,

The Hon^{ble}

Edmund Randolph Esq^r
Secretary of State

Tho S Lee