

Representative Body, and the Constitution to the private interest of a few Individuals. The State of Pennsylvania therefore in this case has all the security that this power will not be abused, that the people of Maryland have, and all that the Representative System can afford: The Treasury of Maryland never can be benefitted by the tolls levied on the Susquehanna: what is gained by the Company is paid by the public, who are unimpaired by the advantages derived from the labour and expense of the improvements: and that the State has in this case acted as a faithful Trustee of the Public, must be evident to all Men, when it is found that the Contractors with them, are willing after the sacrifice of eight or ten Years attention, and use of their Capital in productive times, to relinquish their whole Contract, on their Principal and Interest being refunded to them.

In this conduct and in the purity of the Representative principle your Excellency and the Legislature of Pennsylvania will perceive the perfect security of your State from any future injury.

Our infant Commerce bursting for a vent to diffuse its accumulated products over the World, is the offspring of public faith. Industry and moral rectitude among the people depend on the examples which their Governments may set them. Your Excellency's great reputation in public affairs and known attachment to those principles which alone can make a Nation prosperous and happy, have induced me to submit these observations, confiding that in the main, they will be found conformable with your own opinions: and I pray you, Sir, to receive cordially the assurances of that personal esteem, and high consideration, with which I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

His Excellency James M'Kean  
Governor of Pennsylvania

John F. Mercer

Council Chamber Annapolis January 15/1803

Sir,

Inclosed you have a copy of Resolutions of the General Assembly of Maryland passed at their last Session, the objects of which will be best discovered by the Resolutions themselves, you have also a copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Governor of Pennsylvania in reply to one which I had received from him and which has already been made public. accept, Sir, assurances of the respect & esteem with which I am your obedient servant.

Robert Gilmer Esq.  
Governor of the Sus. Can. Company

John F. Mercer