

In Council Annapolis February 7 1815

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by last Mail of your letter of the fourth Instant and of the Act of Congress therein enclosed.

We had just before its receipt transmitted to the President of the United States, by direction of the General Assembly, a copy of a Law for raising Troops for defence of the State and forth. The Law authorizes the raising of five thousand men, or such part thereof as the President shall previously agree to receive upon the terms specified therein, and with the pleasure of the President is known. The Executive of Maryland, cannot proceed, to have the troops enlisted or the appointment of officers. It is of the utmost importance therefore that the pleasure of the President should be communicated to us as early as possible. We would ask the favour of your earliest attention to the subject: Upon examining the Law of Congress, which you had the politeness to enclose to us, its provisions do not appear to us to authorize the President to accept of troops from Maryland, upon the terms proposed in our Act of Assembly, and no change in these terms could be made without a call of the Legislature, but as the difference is not very great and as similar Laws passed by other States, may not correspond with the provisions of the Law of Congress, perhaps an alteration of the latter, might be obtained before an adjournment which would enable the President to receive the whole or such portion as he may judge necessary of the Troops of Maryland into the service and pay of the United States.

We would not urge the importance of a speedy determination of the General Government. In the course of a very short time, the Enemy may be expected in great force within our Waters, and if an attack on Baltimore should be contemplated we have reason to apprehend, that the attempt will be made very early in the year. If an alteration in the Law should be determined upon, we would respectfully suggest the propriety of an authority being vested in the President to accept of State Troops to make up any deficiency of Volunteers contemplated by the Law of Congress. We have the honor to be with great Respect your obedient servant

The Honorable James Monroe  
Secretary of War of the United States

Levin Winder