

Alexandria have paid nothing on account of the stock surrendered by them to the United States; and as stockholders, have nothing to lose or gain by its surrender to Maryland. But they already derive considerable advantages from the canal, and look forward to its completion as the only means of ensuring their commercial prosperity. Whatever, therefore, will facilitate the accomplishment of this great object, cannot be otherwise than acceptable to the citizens of the District.

It may possibly be urged as an objection to the proposed transfer, that other States might expect a relinquishment of the Government stock in other canals. If any other state stands in the same relation to the United States with regard to any unfinished work and will offer the same conditions then it might expect a similar surrender. Some of the parties interested in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal may oppose the present claim of Maryland under the impression, that she has invested so large a capital in that work that she will be induced by her own interest to finish it, even if the General Government should refuse to surrender its stock. But such a consideration will hardly be urged by those who have heretofore solicited her aid and who are preparing to receive the benefit of her expenditures. There can be no doubt that without further aid to the canal company, its stock will continue unproductive; and that the sums expended on the unfinished works will be entirely lost. But this argument has been urged so often, that it has begun to lose its force. It is doubtful whether the people of Maryland will consent to bear the additional expense of finishing a work, which is more important to others than to themselves, without stipulating for some arrangement that will give them the increased value of its stock and the complete control over its president and directors.

For the reasons herein stated, the Legislature directed me to make the communication which is now respectfully submitted to the President of the United States

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect
your obedient servant
William Gason
Governor of Maryland

To His Excellency
Martin Vanburen
President of the United States