

and to frighten the timid and credulous

I have the honor to be

with great respect

Your obt. servt.

Eduw. Bates

Baltimore May 9<sup>th</sup> 1852

To His Excellency

A. W. Bradford Governor of Maryland

Sir:

Your reply to my communication of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. has been received. I offer you my thanks for your prompt attention to the subject therein submitted to your consideration. The principal object of my letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> was not so much to obtain permission for the independent weighers who charge for their services, to weigh grain as to request that buyers and sellers may exercise the right to weigh their grain themselves or to employ any one whom they may choose.

If the dealers are allowed to act independently of the Inspector General, the Captains of the vessels in which the grain is brought will attend to the weighing on the part of the seller, and the tally-keeper of the buyer for the latter - in both cases without any additional charge for the weighing. I hoped thus to have the grain trade relieved from all tax for weighing.

I believe that if the owners of grain were thus permitted to exempt their property from this charge for weighing they would in very few instances pay it either to the Inspector General or to the independent weighers. Many of those who now employ the independent weighers do so because they are deterred from weighing their own grain by threats of prosecution by the Inspector General, and if they are forced to pay a fee they prefer to give it to the independent weighers rather than to a public officer who they think is endeavoring to extort illegal charges.

I feel confident that you will regard it as the first duty of the chief Executive officer of the State to see that the laws are properly administered, independent of considerations of expediency and that you will not sanction any extortion on the part of the Inspector General, even should the revenue of the State be increased thereby.

The public Treasury will derive but little benefit from the imposition of the tax of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per bushel for the weighing of grain. The average annual sales in Baltimore have been about Eight millions of bushels, but about One million of bushels arriving by Rail Road and waggons are exempt from the charge of weighing, and also all grain which may be sold by measure. Oats are still