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We have a right to claim protection from the Government and I am ready to unite with you in asking the President to authorize the enlistment of troops in Maryland and Penna. on the plan proposed in your letter for that purpose.

My arrangements are made for a visit to Bedford or I would propose to join you in a personal visit to the President.

If you will draw a paper and send it to me I will sign it before I leave on Friday noon and return it to you.

After my return from Bedford I will see you and will be happy to go with you to Washington—

Very Respectfully
Your obt. servt.

A. S. Curtin

His Excellency

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department

Annapolis July 21, 1864

His Excellency A. Lincoln
President of U. S.

Sir:

The repeated raids across the Potomac River made by portions of the Rebel Army and the extent of the damage they have succeeded so frequently in inflicting, have most injuriously afflicted the People of Maryland and Pennsylvania in the neighborhood of that River, and many of them it is believed, as the only security against such losses in the future, are seriously considering the propriety of abandoning their present homes, and seeking safety at the North—

It seems to us that not merely in this sectional aspect of the case, but in its National relations, the security of this border line between the loyal and rebellious States is an object justifying and requiring a disposition of a portion of the National force, with an especial view to its defence—

The Potomac River can only be crossed in its ordinary state of water at some five or six fords, and we propose to enlist from our respective States a Volunteer force that shall be sufficient with the aid of the Fortifications which the force itself can speedily construct, to effectually guard them

(All we ask of the Government that the Recruits so raised shall be credited to the quotas of our several States on the call last made, and be armed, equipped & supplied as other Volunteers in the service—

We are aware that as a general rule well founded objections exist to the enlistment of a force to be