

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 honor to be, with the highest respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM GRASON,

*Governor of Maryland.*

To His Excellency, MARTIN VAN BUREN,

*President of the United States.*