

with a proviso saving the prior rights or liens of the State of Maryland under the mortgages heretofore executed by this Company to said State, except in so far as the same may be waived, deferred, or postponed, by the Legislature thereof.

The object of this proviso was to secure the assent of the Legislature of Maryland to the general provisions of the law. If the act had not contained the clause referred to, it could never have received the confirmation of the Maryland Legislature, inasmuch as such confirmation, without it or an equivalent provision, might have been construed into a general waiver of the State's claims to an indefinite amount, and for all purposes authorized by the charter of the Company. Under the law as it now stands, however, whatever rights the State of Maryland may have by virtue of her mortgages remain good, except in so far as they may be waived by her legislative authority.

By obtaining this important amendment to the charter, this Company was once more placed upon solid grounds, and new life was infused into its corporate existence. The time allowed for the completion of the canal to Cumberland, which, under a strict construction of the original charter, expired in September, 1840, is by it extended to the 1st day of July, 1855. All rights, privileges, or advantages, dependent upon the completion of the work to that point within the time originally prescribed, if it shall be finished within the enlarged time now allowed, are reaffirmed and legally secured, and power to the President and Directors to borrow money for the general purposes of the Company, and to pledge its property and revenues for the payment of the same and the interest to accrue thereon, is plainly and expressly given.

We regard this law as of the highest importance, and respectfully recommend that it be accepted and assented to by the Stockholders, so as to make it a part of the charter of the Company.

Important and necessary, however, as under existing circumstances, are the powers and authority granted by the charter amendment of which we have just spoken, this Company would still have been compelled to remain stationary, and incapable of any progressive movement towards the completion of the great work we have in charge, without the further action of the Legislature of Maryland, providing for a waiver of her liens. This, after a long, earnest, and persevering effort, we have the gratification to inform you we have likewise obtained, by the passage of the second act referred to in the commencement of this communication. Although there are some parts of this law which may be regarded as vexatious and exacting, we yet feel assured that, by the generous aid and co operation of the friends of the canal, and by the exercise of the same prudence and perseverance which has enabled us to overcome the obstacles hitherto thrown in our path, all present difficulties may be surmounted, and the provisions and objects of the law be fully complied with and fulfilled. We therefore, in like manner, respectfully commend it to the acceptance of the stockholders.