

The authority however, should be granted so as not to be susceptible of being construed into an interference with existing liens on the property of the company, as otherwise it would not receive the sanction of the State of Maryland, and because also honesty and good faith demand that existing engagements should be held inviolable. We feel confident, however, that if this be done, Maryland will waive and postpone her claims upon the company by a separate law, as that is the only mode now remaining by which the work can be finished, and until it is finished none can reap any benefit from its avails.

Your memorialists do not deem it necessary to go into a recital of the long and numerous embarrassments which this company has labored under, as they are doubtless well known to the public; nor to speak of the great benefits which are to result from the completion of the work which it has in hand. In the success of the great enterprise, Virginia is deeply interested. She was the first to patronize and bring the company into existence. Her citizens residing in the counties bordering on the Potomac are already reaping some of the benefits of the canal, in having by it the advantage of a cheap communication with the markets on tide water. When the work is finished, these advantages will be greatly increased, and the benefits be more widely extended. We therefore respectfully hope that the consideration of benefit to the State, as well as of justice to the stockholders of the company, &c., will induce your honorable body to comply promptly with the reasonable prayer of this petition. We only ask you to extend the time allowed for completing the eastern section of the canal to Cumberland, and to give an *express* authority to the company to borrow money on its own credit, for the objects authorized by the charter. Of the State of Virginia we at present ask no more, unless, indeed, that your honorable body will act speedily on the subject, and pass the necessary law as early as practicable. It will have to receive the assent of the Maryland Legislature, and, after such assent is given, Maryland will still have to pass another law to waive her liens, which will consume some time. For these reasons, as well as that the company may take early measures to resume the work on the canal, your memorialists pray that the earliest practicable action be afforded to their application. It is plain and just. It asks nothing of Virginia but an allowance of further time, and the giving *expression* to an authority already possessed; and there can therefore, we hope, be but little cause for delay in complying with it.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

JAMES M. COALE, *President.*

FRISBY TILGHMAN,

WILLIAM PRICE,

JOHN P. INGLE,

DANIEL BURKHART,

JOHN O. WHARTON,

} *Directors.*