

[Copy of the memorial presented to Congress.]

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

We have the honor herewith to communicate, for the assent and confirmation of your honorable bodies, a certified copy of a law passed by the Legislature of Virginia, entitled "An act further to amend the act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company," passed January 20, 1844, together with a copy substantially of the memorial of the President and Directors of said company, which was presented to the Legislature of Virginia on the 26th of December last, and upon the prayer of which said law was enacted. The section of the act in reference to the grant of power to construct a slack-water navigation to the mouth of Savage was inserted in the draught of the law after the memorial to the Legislature of Virginia was prepared and signed, in consequence of doubts being entertained whether, under the amendment of the charter of the company, passed by the Legislature of Maryland at its December session, 1826, and assented to by Congress and Virginia in the year 1827, a branch from the main canal to the coal banks at or above the mouth of Savage river could be made unless the western section of the canal was undertaken and prosecuted. To remove these doubts, and to enable the company to construct such branch whenever it should deem it expedient to cause the same to be done, we thought it advisable to obtain a clear and unequivocal right to do so, independent of any movement in regard to the western section.

We therefore respectfully ask of the Congress of the United States, that they will pass an act confirming and assenting to the accompanying law of the Legislature of Virginia, amending the charter of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

By order and in behalf of the Board:

J. M. COALE,
President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Co.

An act confirming and assenting to an act of the Legislature of Virginia, entitled "An act further to amend the act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the act of the Legislature of Virginia, entitled "An act further to amend the act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company," which was passed on the twentieth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, be, and the same is hereby, ratified, confirmed, and assented to: Provided, That this assent and confirmation shall not be so construed as to