

Answer that if the Masters of the Ships have anything to say they desire they
may appear upon which his Excellency gave commandment that the said Masters
Accordingly according to Order might come in and accordingly appeared several
Masters who presented the following Petition viz.

To his Excellency the Governor

The humble Petition of the Commanders of the Merchants Ships now tra-
ding and lying at Anchor in the Ports of their Majestys Province of Maryland
Humbly Sheweth unto your Excellency

That your Petitioners having been hindered by several Impediments as
first the bad Season for making and raising Tobacco 2. The excess of Rain
and ill weather occasioned great Trouble in getting of the same things ready
Received 3. The want of Sloops for the said and several other Reasons cannot
Possibly be ready to sail for England within the time appointed by the Com-
mandore

Your Petitioners do therefore humbly pray your Excellency that our time
of Stay for the dispatch of our necessary business for the Interest as well of their
Majestys as our Owners may be lengthned until the last day of June next at
which time we do all Sincerely promise to be all ready Loaden or Unloaden at
Riquotan to set sail under Convoy of Captain Crowe the Commandore of the said

And as in duty bound shall pray &c

Humphrey Belieu
John Galtton
W^m Lutting
Thomas Emmes
Thomas Withington
Thomas Hayes
Thomas Jones
Jonathan Scarth

Henry Murday
Sam^l Philips Jun^r
Daniel Watts
Barth^l Watts
Robert Stephenson
John Harris
Daniel Brady
Francis Martin

Joseph Scotting
Jeremiah Deble
Francis Fisher
Math^l Hynson
Burdell
Humph^l Higginson
Abraham Wild
George Phillips

Afterwards his Excellency was pleased to Order that if there necessary Mas-
ters attending who had any thing to Object against the said Petition they would
Come in and give the Board to understand what they had to say upon which
appeared several Masters who do say that they are ready to sail with the Com-
mandore by the last of May and that if they should stay till the last day of
June their Vessels would be liable to the harm wherefor it was Replied by
the other Masters that the Major Part of those Masters who oppose the stay of
the Fleet till the last of June come in a long time before the Commandore and
are of and belonging to the said Ports

Ordered to be again read the aforementioned Petition the which was