

as to hazard the prejudicing of my business by going to any other Part than the  
Particular Business intended. I am in such a condition to attend which humbly submitted  
to by

Your Excellency's most humble servants  
Step<sup>r</sup> Barber

The other Masters and Merchants after the several discourses and questions  
put to them withdrew a while and then came and presented the following Paper  
viz

May it please your Excellency and your honourable Council

That considering our Provisions will fail the Worms harm our Ships and  
sailing our men being sick in the summer time and that this long stay prepared  
will not conduct us nigh our Port but leave us in our greatest danger and several  
other inconveniences that will follow upon our being detained longer in the  
Country we humbly beg that it may please your Excellency & honourable Council to  
allow us the liberty of sailing when we are ready which is the humble request of

Your Excellency's most humble servants  
Thomas Thompson Joseph Younger  
Edw Langhugh Terom Lewis

At a Council May 7 1696 ✓

Several other Masters and Merchants of Ships came also in Pursuance of a  
former summons from this Board and presented the following Petition viz

Maryland

To his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> Captain General & Governor  
in chief of the said Province

In answer to your Excellency's demands in Council relating to the Ships  
now in the Country we whose names are here under written do in the first Place  
humbly request that such Ships as concern us being now in a forward way to sail  
may be cleared as soon as got ready and in Order thereto do presume to Offer these  
following Reasons viz

- 1 Our Provisions falling short and finding at Present great Scarcity of such things  
in the Country will of necessity by staying force us to great Charge & Extremity
- 2 The time of year is now on for the Worms biting which by staying may hazard  
the loss of our Ships
- 3 We greatly stand in fear of our men falling sick as is customary to strangers  
Summering in this Country
- 4 If we should be delayed in our Voyages and our men sicken upon us our design  
would be wholly frustrated there being no Seamen possible to be had here