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The following is prepared in answer to his Excellency's letter abt my Lord  
Baltimore's Rents and Orders to be entered Vizt.

By the House of Delegates June 4<sup>th</sup> 1715.

May it please your Excellency

We heartily Condole the loss of our Late Lord  
Prop<sup>r</sup> not only as a generous Land Lord, but a generall friend to this  
Province.

We likewise Congratulate his 10<sup>th</sup> Lordship on the descent of his  
Prop<sup>r</sup>ship upon him to whom we wish a long and happy enjoyment of  
it and as for your Excellency it is our small Satisfaction to us to find  
that on his Late Lordships decease he is succeeded by a protestant son  
of that great Character (your Excellency) has all ways given him - nor can  
we be ungrateful of your Excellency's Care and favour towards us in  
soe speedily Communicating to us the opportunity your Excellency has  
of making us easy in the affair of our Land Rents, which is of our great  
Concern to his 10<sup>th</sup> Lordship and this Province - for which we return your  
Excellency our most hearty thanks - and since your Excellency has been pleased  
to intimate his Lordship does not design to stand to the agreement formerly  
made with his Ancestors in respect as the Case of Tobacco sh<sup>d</sup>. now stands  
We humbly propose to lay an Impost of 18<sup>d</sup> Sterl per lb. being of the gage of  
32 inches in the head within the Crook not exceeding 37 inches in the bulk  
and 48 inches in the length of the Staves for his Majesty towards defraying  
the Publick Charge of this Province which we resolve to apply to his Lord-  
ships use if his Lordship will be pleased to accept thereof as an Equivalent  
for taking his Land Rents and Fines for alienations within this Province  
as his noble Father did in Tobacco at two pence Sterl per pound during  
his natural life, and humbly pray your Excellency will be pleased to assist  
in recommending the same to his Lordship.

We are persuaded our selves that his Lordship thinks it is his interest to  
Consult the welfare of this Province as his Noble Ancestors did and to  
wards the support of the Government. we are also willing to make an  
advance of three pence Sterl per lb. on every lb. of Tobacco exported of the afo<sup>r</sup>.  
Gauges in Consideration of its being soe enlarged as a just and reasonable  
Compensation - therefore without which the Revenue would be very  
much diminished and impaired and as in the former Laws to prepare  
a Petitionary bill for both the s<sup>d</sup>. importers under the same proviso as above  
as your Excellency will be pleased to notify your approbation.

Signed for Tho: Maeremaid Clk. h<sup>o</sup>. of

The same is sent up to his Excellency the Gov. by Mr. Taylor Col<sup>l</sup> Mackall  
Major Willson, Major Phillips, Col<sup>l</sup> Masfield, Mr. Whittington Major  
Ward Capt. Trippe, Mr. Wright and Mr. Desfield.

They Returne and say they Delivered the Message.

Mr. Thomas Robins from the Committee of Laws Delivers Mr. Speaker