

rigorous to such High-Ways, are intimidated and prevented from keeping Boats and convenient Vessels for the transporting and carrying over such Bays, Rivers, Creeks and Inletts, his Majesty's Subjects, to the great delay and hindrance of Business, Publick and Private, and manifest Prejudice of his Majesty's Liege and Dutiful Subjects.

That his said Lordship's Agents and Ministers take upon themselves to Rate what shall be paid by his Majesty's Subjects for Passing over such publick Ferries, being the King's High-Way; and of late have doubled such Rates, which the People are necessitated to pay, or otherwise their Affairs to be entirely obstructed: And likewise have increased the Fines for such Ferry Licenses.

That inasmuch as this Province is very Luxuriant in Bays, Rivers, Creeks and Inletts, over which the High-Roads aforesaid Leads, such Taxation will in Time become most Oppressive and Burthenfome, as in reallity it now is: Your Committee have hereunto annexed, Copy of a License granted by his Lordship's Agent for keeping such Ferries, for the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Your Committee humbly observe, that so early as the Year 1638, Ferries were Settled and Regulated by Act of Assembly, and at other Times since, which Acts left the chief Direction to the County Courts, which they always till of late practised to Settle and Regulate.

We likewise humbly observe, that in our neighbouring Colony immediately under his Majesty's Government, the several Ferries are by Act of Assembly Regulated for the Conveniency and Ease of the People.

Your Committee are humbly of Opinion, His Lordship's Agents and Ministers Taxing and Rating his Majesty's Subjects, of and by his and their sole Power and free Will, without Law to Support the same, in a most arbitrary and illegal Proceeding, a very great Aggrievance and Innovation on the Rights of his Majesty's Subjects the good People of *Maryland*: And that such Practices of his Lordship's Agents and Ministers tend to Alienate the Affections of the People from his Lordship's good Rule and Government.

But is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Signed per Order, *William Cumming*, Cl. Com.

*Maryland*, ff. CHARLES, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of *Maryland* and *Avalon*, Lord Baron of *Baltimore*, &c.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, *Greeting*. Whereas it is of Publick Service and Utility, not only to the Inhabitants of our said Province, but Others travelling through the same, to have Ferries kept in proper and convenient Places, for the easy and convenient Passages of all