

Mr. Chase having mentioned nothing about Great Guns in his letter to Capt. Nicholson we think none ought to be removed till further orders. Let the men take their small arms and let no time be lost.  
Capt. George Cooke. We are Sirs.

Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1776

Gentlemen, In consequence of a verbal message from the President of Congress delivered to us by Col. Ewing we instantly gave the necessary orders to the Commanding officers of Frederick Baltimore & Harford and Cecil Counties to call together the Militia of their several Counties to be in readiness to march to the assistance of Philadelphia expecting that we should every moment receive orders from Congress, but no such order have yet come to hand. It is true Mr. Chase wrote to Mr. Duryan to apply to the Council of Safety to send relief to the head of Elk the Salt and Stores belonging to this State, We immediately engaged refreshments for that purpose but before they sailed Purviance arrived and told us that a sufficient number were prepared at Baltimore. By letter from Mr. Chase to Capt. Nicholson which was just now handed to us we observe that sea provisions are much wanted to man the Frigates and in consequence thereof we have ordered Cap. Cooke to proceed with all the men that can be spared from the defence to Philadelphia and there to receive and obey the orders of Congress. We have not received a scrip of paper from either Congress, or any of our delegates relative to the assistance mentioned to Col. Ewing. Mr. Duryan or Capt. Nicholson and we cannot help observing to you that applying to individuals who necessarily must apply to the Council of Safety from whom their power must be deputed before they can act is losing time to say nothing of the want of respect to a Body of Men with whom the Executive Powers of the State are entrusted.

P. S. Enclosed you have the letters we have put to the Military Officers and doubt not but they will do every thing in their Power to have their men in readiness to march to Philadelphia or any other place they may be ordered to.

Delegates in Congress.

We are, Gentlemen, &c.

December 17<sup>th</sup> 1776

Sir, We are honoured with yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant, and have sent up Cap. Patterson to assist in Drugging down the stones from the head of Elk, he proceeds directly there with a small Vessel and ~~thirteen~~ or fourteen able hands hired to assist. We are very desirous Cap. Martin should sail immediately. his voyage we expect will be of much consequence to the State and perhaps to the common cause.