

portant, and in our opinion ought to receive more mature deliberation than from the present circumstances can be given; and we the more readily adopt this measure, because, though the bill is confessedly important, yet we conceive it to be of such a nature, as that no evil can arise to the public from its being postponed, even should the final passage of it be the result of a full and free discussion.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES,  
December 21, 1779.

May it please your HONOURS,

WE herewith return you the bill, for the seizure and confiscation of British property, and will briefly suggest the reasons and motives which induced this house to adopt the measure; and flatter ourselves they will so far operate with your honours as to obtain your assent to the bill. Justice, policy and necessity influence our conduct.

By the requisition of congress (of the 6th of October last) this state was called on to raise its quota of 135 million of dollars, in nine months, to commence on the first day of February next: the proportion of that sum required of this state is fourteen million two hundred and twenty thousand dollars; the monthly sum to be raised one million five hundred and eighty thousand dollars; this sum would require a tax not less than three pounds on every hundred pounds of property within this state, and consequently our people would be obliged to pay in the nine months, twenty-seven pounds for every hundred pounds worth of property they possess.

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