

The debt due from this state is above one million of pounds currency. Our treasury is exhausted; our quota of troops require a considerable reinforcement, and a large sum will be necessary to defray the expence of the recruiting service. We are inclined to think our proportion of the continental debt may exceed twenty-five million of dollars.

If, after contemplating the information we have taken the liberty to give you of our circumstances, you are still inflexibly determined not to seize and appropriate British property, in our power, to enable us to carry on the war, (and we again declare it is not in our power to collect the necessary sums by taxes, without grealy distressing our people, and compelling them to sell their property to pay the assessment) we shall return to our constituents with the consolation, that we have endeavoured to do all in our power, and the consequences which may happen, be they ever so great, will not be justly imputable to us.

It now remains for us to express our acknowledgements so justly due to your honours, for the particular instance of your attention and regard to the gentlemen of the eastern shore; but notwithstanding the inclemency of the season and the severity of the weather renders an attendance on the public business, at this time, exceedingly distressing and inconvenient to this house in general, and to the gentlemen of the eastern shore in particular, yet the duty which we owe to our country, the welfare of the public, and a relief to our people from the very heavy taxes which are demanded of them for the prosecution of the war, supersede the obligations of private interest. Governed by these motives, we can assure your honours, that we shall wait with patience the result of your determinations on the very important bill now sent back for your consideration.