A3468

To the Hon.ble The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Deligates The Petition of Sundry the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the County of Bedford Humbly sheweth that after reviewing and Maturely considering the Ingrossd Bill Published by order of the House of Deligates for making Provision for the Support of th[illegible] of the Christian Religion beg leave to represent that we are of opinion that the Legislature has no right to Interfere in matter of Religion as we think that it would be a Violation of the rights of the Good People of this State our Bill of Rights Particularly Points out that religion or the duty we owe to our Creator and the manner of discharging it can only be directed by reason and Conviction not by Force or Violence, therefore as all men are Equally Intitled to the free Exercise of Religion according to the dictates of Conscience &c &c We your Petitioners beg leave to represent to your Hon.ble House that we think if the Legislature has a right to Compell every man to pay Certain Contributions for the Support of a Teacher of his own Society with equal Propriety they have a right to compell every man to pay to one certain Society which in the opinion of your Petitioners would be in fact to support a form of Godliness without the Power that were to force a man to support this or that Teacher of his own religious Persuation, is a depriving him of that liberty of giving his Contributions to the Particular Pastor whose Morals he would make his Patron, whose Powers he feels most Persuasive to Righteousness would be wrong, Cruel, and Oppressive we Your Petitioners therefore humbly Pray that the General Assesment may not take Place, and that Religion may Stand on its own Basis without the Interposition of the Legislature and we Your Petitioners as in duty Bound shall ever Pray &c &c

Joshua Early
Aron Pordel
Henry Jeter
John Chastain
Jonth [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

Julius Hatcher
John Bondurant
William Tracy
Solomon Tracy
Thomas Osbury
Thos Logwood
Joseph Hardy

David Douglas
Benj. Ramsey
Thos Hanes
Stephen Phillips

Bedford Petn

Octo 27th 1785

Refd to whole

Co

Jeremiah Hatcher
Henry Hatcher
Nathl. Harris
James Jackson
John Ross Dewitt
Charles Harris
Julius Hatcher
John Halley
Micajah Clarke
Henry Halley
Mathew Clarke
James Halley
Lewis Chastain
Elijah Bryan
William Boyd
Peter Gibson
William Bryant
Thos Terry Junr
David Wade
John Williams
Simmons [illegible]
Jacob Wade
Benjamen Estes
William Lowry
Isaac Fairman
ee 2

[illegible]
[illegible] Fuqua
Thomas Fuqua
[illegible]
Robert [illegible]
George Buckley
Charles Renald
Sharrad Goddy
Benjamin McFarland
Elijah Bowcock
William Wooldridge
William Wilson
William Kerr
Isham Clark
Chas Lambert
Jno Lambert
William Buford
William Gaddie Senr
John Chastain
William Lewis
John Jackson
Jesse Tate
Thomas Thorp
Samuel Heslee

Nathaniel Bowens
William Fowler
Richard Eubanks
George Rusher
Thomas Eubanks
Jesse Cowee
Leonard Hall
Charles ~~Tate~~
Peter Wilkinson
Chesley Woodward
John Miller
Charles [illegible]
William Rice
Willis Eubanks
William Euba
John Scott
Joseph Goff
Peter Masters
Jno Gray
Thos Merritt
Charles Rice
Andrew [illegible]
Pleasant Hanley
James [illegible]
Hance Woodward
Luke Bray

Jam.s Bradley
Robert Boyle
Henercy Mayberry
anderson hardy
Rob.t Fitzhugh
Ruben Dollars
John Dooley
[illegible]jah Colank
gorg Paten
Th.s Smith
Henry Dooley
Joseph Mcguire
Jab Crump
W.m McClanehan
Benne McClark
John Dawson
Jeremiah Dawson
James Flood
James Overstreet
Jeremiah wood
Buck bramblit
Th.s Wood
Peter Fitzhugh
Josiah Wood

James Hensley
Charles Rice
Benj.a H~~[illegible]~~
Dudley Carll
Jacob Stith
Thomas Kirpa
Benj.a Hatcher
John Hardwick
[illegible]aniel Mitchell