

A 157

To The Honorable Legislature of Virginia now
in session.

The undersigned begs leave respectfully
to represent, that he sees by an act of assembly
passed at the session 1846 or 1847 in regard to
Auctioneers they shall take out license to sell
every year, and for the first year shall pay
a tax of one hundred and fifty dollars and
afterwards according to the amount of sales,
but provides that no tax shall be for any amount
of sales less than seventy five dollars,

Your Petitioner lives in a village of some
size (Charlottesville) not large enough to justify
the payment of one hundred (and fifty dollars
for a commencement, nor would the business
justify a tax annually as the lowest amount
allowed. Yet the business is sufficient to call
for a licensed Auctioneer, Your Petitioner is
unable to see why Auctioneers should not be
placed upon equal footing with merchants
in regard to license, that is to say graded
down to twenty or twenty five dollars for a
small amount of sales, were this done small
dealers would take out license and the Treasury
secure the tax, whereas with the present an-
nouncement no license is taken except in cities
and large towns, and yet goods are constantly
sold at Auction by men always to be found
with a horn that way, it is extremely doubtful
whether an Auction house in such a place as
Charlottesville would sell more than three thou-
sand dollars worth of goods per Annum.

The undersigned thinks that if the law was reduced
as to small towns the Treasury would gain and
no one loose, and in this view of the case asks
that such a change may be made, and your
Petitioner will ever pray &c.

Henry Benson

Charleston January 30th 1848

Mr. Watson

Dear Sir

Enclosed You will find a petition to The Legislature
praying the reduction of auctioneers license, as regards
villages, which I have taken the liberty of enclosing
to you asking the favour of you to present it to
you today. I am well satisfied you must readily
see that as the law now exists it would be nonsense
to attempt such an establishment in our town
but by reducing it to \$20 or \$25 one might succeed
in a measure, as it is my maiden Petition
it is probably rather a green one should it
not be in form you will confer a lasting favour
by fixing it right and then pushing it a head

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt Servt

Henry Beufon

Petition of Henry Benson
Praying a reduction
of the tax on licenses
to Auctioneers, in
certain cases.

C. R. Watson

Jan^y 28th 1848

to Finance

Edbert R. Watson esq

Richmond

va

Polk's
Mr Holland

Finance Committee