

Norfolk Act  
1st Prince and Canal  
Council

Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - 1808

Wm. Amstrong to the

D. P. Gray

with enclosure

To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Delegates  
in general Assembly convened.

The Petition of the people of Princess Anne County and of other parts of the Commonwealth respectfully sheweth, that your Petitioners have for a series of years viewed as a matter of the first importance to the Commercial and agricultural Interests of this Commonwealth in particular, and of the United States in general, the opening a Coastwise Canal - competent to passing Sea Vessels of eight feet draft of Water, from the port of Norfolk through the Eastern Branch of Elizabeth River - leaving that River at or near Kempsville, thence crossing the portage to the North River, at or near the North Landing, and continuing such Navigation thence down the same to the Head of Pamituck Sound; where the Boundary Line between this Commonwealth and the State of North Carolina crosses the same in Latitude thirty Six Degrees thirty Minutes North, both which points of Junction and portage are situated in the County of Princess Anne in the Commonwealth aforesaid.

And your Petitioners beg leave further to represent that they consider a lateral Canal leading to the South-  
-ern Branch of Lynhaven River, would be a valuable auxiliary in promoting the Naval and Military defence of the port of Norfolk, while the grand Junction Canal could not fail of increasing its Commercial prosperity & Wealth.

Your Petitioners have ascertained that both these Operations are practicable in about ten miles cutting, and with a view to illustration, have procured full Surveys of the section of Country through which they are to pass; To all which they beg leave to refer your honourable House. And as the general Government at the late Sessions of the Congress of the United States has evinced a desire of effecting a great Inland Coastwise Navigation, from Maine to the Carolinas, and thence capable of extension to New Orleans, several parts of which Operation are now in great forwardness, Your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that it might ensure highly interesting State Improvements by investing the Federal Government with a Superintendancy or directing power to carry the said Canals into effect.

Your Petitioners therefore pray of the honourable general Assembly an Act so full and com-

=prehensive (as to effectuate the above mentioned Objects and of such further Relief as the Honourable the Legislature may in its Wisdom dispense.

J<sup>o</sup> Taylor  
A. Jordan  
Patt. Luff  
Thos. Bland  
Thos. Seymour  
A. C. Jordan  
J<sup>o</sup> Moll  
D. G. Lap  
Geo. Bealy  
M. F. C. Jordan  
Dempsy W. P. W.  
H. Seymour  
M. H. Sturhope  
G. W. W. R. S. W.  
W. S. Partridge  
Ruben Coffin  
Wm. Church  
Patrick Haman

Robt. Mough  
Arthur Lee  
Thos. Lee  
Wm. Rogers  
Thos. Sandrell  
Wm. Lawrence  
Jonathan. Rogers  
C. Sully  
A. Sharp  
Nath. Hough Jun  
Talbot Bragg  
Robert Simington  
William Johnston  
William Bennett.  
James Oakley  
Peter Bacon  
James Whitcomb  
D. M. Downey

Johnson Malloy  
Carter R. Hammett  
David Pierce  
Jas. J. S. W. W.  
James Woodward  
John Wright  
Hugh McQuillin  
Geo. B. Hill  
John Stone  
F. Palmer  
A. J. McConico  
E. Sturtevant  
C. W. Clark  
Ch. H. Simmons  
Wm. Simion  
Ch. H. Simmons Jun.  
Francis Butt

Rich. A. Lee  
Wm. Myers  
Geo. Kendall  
Jordan Merchant  
Rich. B. Fisher  
Rich. C. Lee  
Thomas S. Parker  
Geo. W. W. W.  
E. W. W. W.  
Mewton  
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