Sir

On an examination of the quantity of powder in the hands of the public we find that the whole together will not be more than one third of the quantity required for a decisive operation, and that unless we can derive any extensive aid from the respective States this deficiency alone must subvert our plans. I am therefore to request The Honorable the Council will be pleased to inform me whether we can obtain a supply from your State and to what amount. In an emergency like the present every State must contribute to the utmost of its abilities or, we must face in our prospects and defeat our allies.

It is with infinite chagrin and mortification I find that at this day the growth of only more than two weeks since the first application to the States for the succour necessary towards the intended operation, not more than thirty times have to my knowledge found any part of the army, nor have I any information that has been given on this respect by any one of the States. Some of them have not even informed us what they extend to do. The Council will easily conceive the embarrassment of my situation. The French fleet and Army momentarily expected to call upon me for information of our prospects and for a plan of cooperation America looking to me to impose the kind which our allies are wanting in. A British fleet expected at the head of the sociable fleet—preliminary measures demanding an instant determination if taken rejete will hazard and involving certain disgrace. Please we are not.
be able to go on with vigor of Suppose us to an advantage on which the whole chance of success must in all probability depend. While I remain unacquainted with means to begin informed with tolerable certainty of those which will be put into my hands the time they will be ready, and consequently unable to decide any plan on reasonable grounds. I see the best appointing America has to establish her independence, fettered with delays, and clouded with uncertainties, which will not permit the most sanguine to hope for such an issue as vigor, decision, and dispatch might have insured.

With every sentiment of esteem addressed,
I have the honor to be,

Your most obed.
Friend forever,

Gh Washington

P.S. In the course of our operations a number of schooner may become necessary; I beg to be informed what number may be obtained from your state on what terms and in what time after notice, should my vessels arrive in your ports with any intelligence of the British fleet and army or of the British fleet said to be coming out. I shall be much obliged to you to send me immediate as precise and particular an account as you can obtain.

The Hon.
President Clare

State of Pennsylvania

1780, July 9th