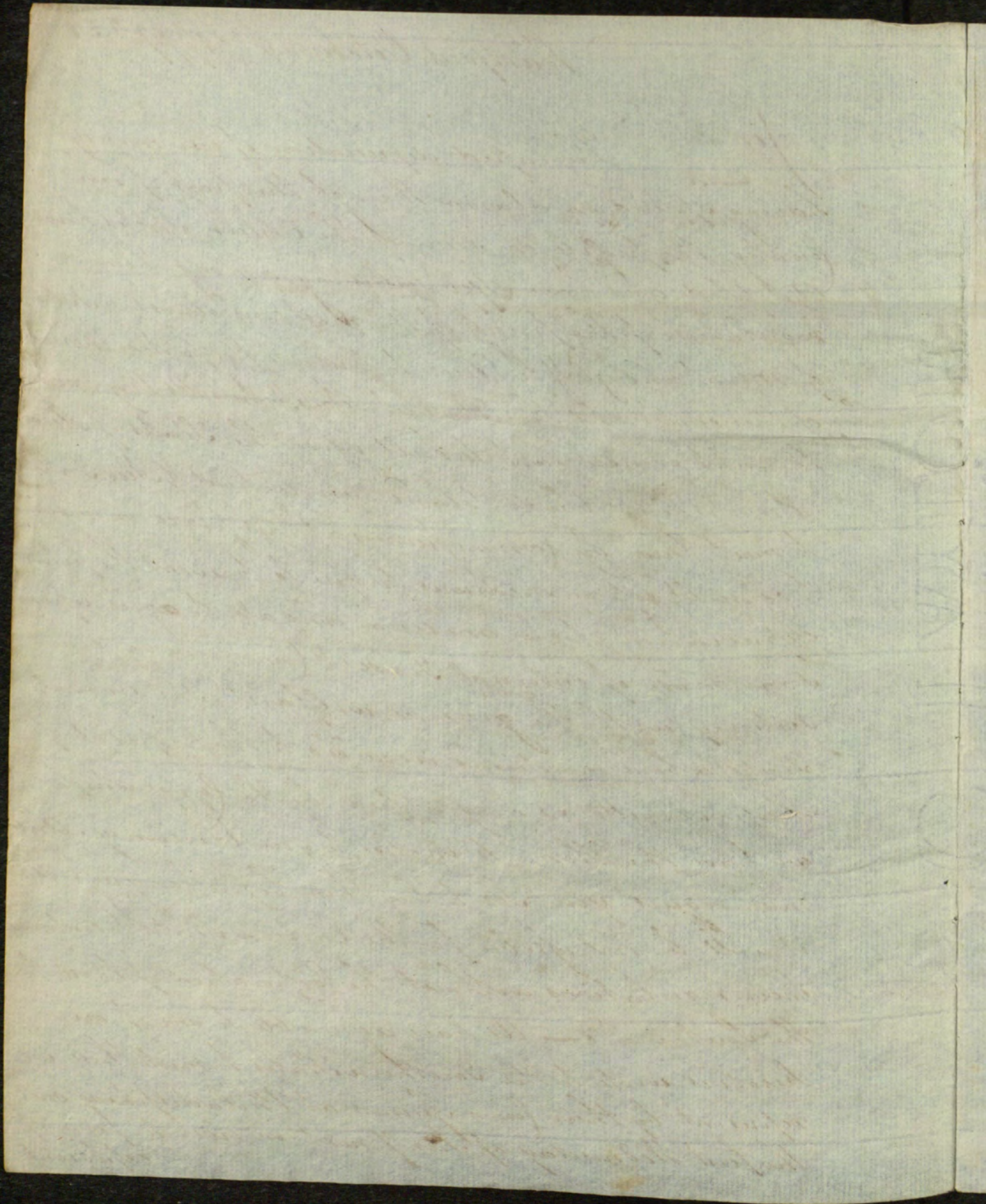


Hartford October 20<sup>th</sup> 1779 <sup>251</sup>  
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Sir

The rapid depreciation of our money having spread an alarm through this part of our Country the people in some of the Eastern States have adopted and have still subsisting among them a regulation of the prices of the most considerable articles of merchandize & produce to prevent the further increase of this evil and the State of Massachusetts Bay having thought it necessary to call upon the States of New Hampshire, Rhode Island Connecticut & New York to meet them by Commissioners at this place in order to consult upon measures proper to prevent the future depreciation of our medium and also to agree upon some mode of internal Trade & Commerce in consistency with the general welfare - The several States above mentioned acceded to the proposal of Massachusetts as may appear by the Copies which we have the Honor to inclose to your Excellency. And must request you Sir to lay them before Congress, as it will be impossible for the Eastern States to continue their regulations without the Cooperation of them to the Southward - We have a quable to one of our Resolves wrote to the Southern States to meet those we represent by their Commissioners at Philadelphia on the first Wednesday of Jan<sup>y</sup> next in order to form if expedient



expedient a regulation of prices that may be permanent & Salutory. And if Congress approve of our doings we shall be glad of their recommendation to those States to meet the Eastern States agreeable to our request: though we do not conceive that a radical cure for the depreciation of our money is to be obtained other than by Taxes & Loans. & large sums of money we apprehend might be obtained by the latter method if Congress would engage to make good the money to the lender. The large demands made by the Commissarys upon the States of New York & Connecticut for Flour for the Army operates greatly to increase the distress of the People to the Eastward; we would therefore submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it is not practicable to get such a part of the public supply from the Southward as will enable N York & Connecticut to afford some relief to their Eastern Neighbours. Should the measures we have recommended be approved of by Congress we think it would be necessary to render them permanent and Salutory that the supplies made by each State for the Army should be at one and the same price.

Step. Hopkins Pref<sup>t</sup>

A true Copy of the foregoing  
Letter Examined By *Abel Smith* Sec<sup>y</sup>

Faint, illegible cursive handwriting covering the main body of the page.

Step. H. ...

Faint signature or name at the bottom of the page.