

Sir

Walpole Jan. 7th 1781

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Impressed with a sense of Gratitude for the many Favours bestowed on me and Marks of Distinction shown me by the General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire, it is Difficult for me not to use my utmost, tho' feeble Efforts to do any service which they direct me to Perform. I am Sensible of, and heartily thank them for the Honor they have lately done me by appointing me a Delegate to Represent the said State at the Continental Congress. and am ambitious of serving my Country in any Station that I can fill with Honor; but when I consider that it is necessary for that August Body to be composed of Gentlemen of Affluent Fortunes, great Abilities, and long Experience in the Political World, I have not the Vanity to think that I can do either Honor to myself, or service to my Country by being a Member of the Continental Congress. Furthermore the Circumstances of my Family and the Publick Difficulties Attending the Western Part of this State render it extremely Difficult and Dangerous for me to be absent from this part of the Country and necessary for me to ~~Decline~~ taking a Seat in Congress. We are in Danger of being Destroyed by our Savage Enemy - the Reins of Government are weak, and our Political Affairs in Great Disorder and Confusion - I received the Instructions of the General Assembly of New Hampshire to their Agents and Delegates whilst I was sitting in Convention by a Gentleman who was well acquainted with the contents of them before I opened your Letter: it was therefore thought proper by some Gentleman friendly to the Government of New Hampshire that they should be Laid before the Convention - they were Read and had a very Different Effect upon the Convention from what

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what we expected - They said that it appeared by said Instructions that New Hampshire did not mean to Lay claim to the Grants on the west side of Connecticut River unless Congress should first Determine they were not a Separate State which ~~Congress~~ they say Congress will never do - Unless the Agents and Delegates from New Hampshire should be Instructed to put in their claim to the said Grant and Use their Influence that they be Annexed to the State of New Hampshire before any other Determination be made in Congress Respecting them - The Convention therefore Resolved by a Majority of three to one that they would Join with Vermont in Forming a New State - I expect that this County and the County of Grafton will Speedily be thrown into Anarchy and Confusion, if not irrecoverably Lost to the State of New Hampshire unless the Assembly shall Alter their Instructions to their Agents and Delegates; and they prevail at Congress to have the Whole of the Grants Annexed to New Hampshire. which I heartily wish may be soon effected. for I think that New Hampshire would then be a Respectable State

I am, Sir, your most Obedt^l
Serv^t Benj^a Bellows

H. Weare. President

in the State of New Hamp^s.

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I am, Sir your most Humb^l
Serv.^t Benj.^a Bellows

M. Weare Resident
In the State of New Hamp.^r