

State of Massachusetts Bay

Council Chamber Boston Sept. 28. 1779

Sir,  
The good people of this State greatly alarmed at the late rapid depreciation of our Currency have by a meeting of their delegates at Concord agreed to regulate the prices of the most considerable articles of merchandise and the necessities of life, which at present appears likely to answer very good & salutary purposes, unless destroyed by those lawless & desperate that have hitherto so largely contributed to the inconveniences we now feel. But a regulation in this Government without similar measures are adopted by our Sister States affords opportunity to people of this class to execute all their resentment in sharpening and tripping greatly to the Damage both of your State & ours, the mischiefs arising from their practices have already been very apparent, such large Quantities of goods being carried from hence as threaten us with so great a scarcity as will deprive us of the means for procuring bread & other provisions of which we are at present in great want. These men's efforts having made such exertions for transportation that the price of cattle has almost doubled within a few Weeks - these measures unless speedily prevented threaten the very existence of the Community - The General Assembly of this State have therefore been under the necessity for the present of making an Act to prohibit the exportation of sundry articles of merchandise & live stock out of this State.

Nothing but the most absolute necessity could have induced us to enter into a measure which may appear to militate with that spirit of brotherly Love & friendship which the American States ought to bear to each other & for our common interest is so necessary to prevail throughout the whole. In order therefore that a free & general intercourse may take place upon principles consistent with the public good, & effectually to cut up & destroy the practices of those people who prey both upon you and us, we take the liberty to propose a Consultation on the part of the Governments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts Bay to be held at Hartford on the twentieth of October next for the purpose of aiding of Thomas Cushing & Nathaniel Gorham Esqrs. are Deputies by this assembly with full powers to appear on the part of this State. We have wrote a similar Letter to the several States above mentioned & as the business proposed appears to us of great importance & to require despatch we shall take the Liberty to direct our Commissioners to appear at the time & place above proposed without further advice from you. We have only to request of our Sir to lay this Letter before the Assembly of your State if sitting & if not before the Council, that they may have opportunity to take such measures thereon as the public good may appear to them to require.

In the Name &amp; behalf of the General Assembly

I am  
Sir  
Yr. most Obedt. Servant

J. Powell Secy.

Hon. M. W. W. Esq.



From President Powell  
28 Sept 1779

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Letter from Rev. Dr. Powell  
of Massachusetts Council, relat-  
ing to a proposed Convention  
at Hartford Conn.  
Sept. 28, 1779.