

*To the Honorable*

*the Speaker of the House of Delegates:*

The undersigned, a minority of the committee on Militia, beg leave to respectfully report that they are unable to agree with the majority of the committee in a favorable report upon the bill which they have had under their consideration.

It is due to themselves to set forth the reasons which induced them to withhold their assent to said bill. The State of Maryland has promptly responded to all the calls of the President and furnished her full quota of men to the army of the United States for the defence of the country, and has also furnished her full portion of money for the same purpose. The proposed organization of the militia of the State will be attended with a large expenditure of money and great loss of time to all classes of the community at a time when they are illy able to bear such a burthen.

The militia of the State is to be divided into two classes. The first class called the Maryland National Guards, to be composed of volunteers and such as may be drafted into that force for the purpose of raising it to the required number, will bring on a draft immediately after or it may be at the very time when we are engaged in the draft to fill the State's quota of the recent call of the President for three hundred thousand men.

Every regiment and battalion are required to assemble eight times in each year for the purpose of parade drill and discipline, and each division and brigade are required to assemble for camp instruction once in each year, and continue in camp for a period not exceeding ten days. This organization is also subject to call of the President into the United States service.

The Eastern Shore of the State would be particularly oppressed by this system. The organization being intended to meet sudden emergencies if the troops from that part of the State were called out to meet such a case (in consequence of their remote position) there could be no probability of their getting near the field of action before the necessity that required their presence would have passed away, subjecting them to a vast amount of expense and laborer without any advantage whatever to any portion of the State.

The constitutional obligations to provide by law for organizing, equipping and disciplining the militia are subject to the qualification that it is to be done in such manner as shall be most effective to repel invasion, and in the opinion of the undersigned this can be accomplished in a mode less bur-