Woodyard D. November 1775.

Honorable Gentlemen

Having long forseen the present troubles I have endeavoured to provide against them as well as I could and tried to prevail with all those I conversed with to do so too but to very little purpose. from what motives I shall not take upon me to declare. When the general congress desired that all men should prepare against the worst. I put my Arms in order laid by what little powder and lead I had and purchased at an advanced price what powder lead & flints. I could conveniently get and powder run presently up to 20£ ℔ hundred. I have been offered by the people of Virginia at different times first 5/ then 7/6 and lately 10/ a pound for what powder I have it is selling currently at the South Branch at 2 dollars. I have refused parting with any because I think we shall very soon stand in great need of it here in Maryland. When the convention of December desired all men to enrol themselves into Company to provide a good fuelock. Cartridge Box, half a pound of powder & 2lb of lead, & to be ready to march upon any emergency I exerted myself greatly, put myself to a considerable expense, formed a Company purchased a Lock Smith & Cutler at a great price on purpose - got 100 Cartridge boxes made and would soon have had the Company in tolerable order, but I presently found my zeal gave offence and every rub and mortification was thrown in the way, to destroy the Company, so that I threw up in disgust from what quarters and factions it is needless to say, but I am extremely sorry to see that very little regard has been since paid to the directions of the Convention as to Arms and Ammunition a few officers and privates have tolerable pieces but for the rest some have none some without locks or even ramrods nor are there 5 Cartridge Boxes in the Company and all the expostulations as a private man that I can make avails nothing a fatal backwardness prevails and I lay a considerable part of it to the account of the officers not obliging the men to put their Arms into better order which I think they certainly might do.

In December last there was a good deal of powder and lead in the store: — instead of the people providing themselves with some & keeping it ready - or in store it has most shamefully been wasted in X mas guns, fired away at birds and squirrels so that now I fear there is very little in the County and that little growing less every day - Our Committee a few days ago applied to me for what I had to dispose among the people which I refused to part with, well knowing that it will go like the rest fired away at Ducks &c - What I have I intend to keep, till it is wanted, to defend us against the enemy, and I make no doubt the Honorable Council of safety will make me full amends for my zeal & care in the preservation of it - I have some powder, some lead, some Arms, - 7 good light Iron Cannon that would carry Balls of 1½ - there are four other new ones at P.S. Point that will carry 3lb balls - if these were put on travelling carriages they might be of service to defend the sides of the rivers against the Tenders, - and I suppose some arms and ammunition might be collected and procured, if a proper officer in each County was appointed for that purpose, and otherwise, I think there will not

(My)