

Camp at Reading [*pronounced REH duhng*]

January 1779

Dear Sir

From yours of the 8th Ultimo [*pronounced "UHL tuh-mow" but often read aloud as "last month"*] viz [*pronounced as spelled but usually read aloud as "that is" or "namely"*] the Resolution enclosed therein I learnt, that the further consideration of the Memorial of the Officers of the Connecticut line, in behalf of themselves, and the Soldiers under their command, was adjourned with the Assembly; which I apprehend will according, be resumed early in the present session.

But before a final determination is made on a matter so interesting and momentous to the Army, and the public, in its consequence; it was judged necessary that the real state of facts should be known, and everything brought into view, which may serve to illustrate the object of inquiry –

I have therefore, at the instance of all the officers of the line, thought proper that the Honorable Brigadier Generals Parsons and Huntington, together with Colonels Bradly and Meigs [*pronounced "MEGZ"*], and Captain Judd, should be present during the relating of this important subject; and desire, that full

attention and faith may be given, to the representations, which will be made by them.

These gentlemen, or such of them who shall attend, will lay before the Assembly, an estimate of the loss sustained by the troops of this state, in consequence of the enhanced price of all the necessary articles of life and the unequal value of their pay, to what it was at the time of their engaging in the service – together with a calculation, of the partial compensation, which has been made by the supplies granted by the State; and what in reality, still remains due to them; -- with any other information, which may afford light and satisfaction, in the course of the debate –

Enclosed Your Excellency, will observe, a return of the supernumerary officers of the Connecticut line, who were omitted in the late arrangements. To whom Congress have resolved, that a year's pay shall be given, and have earnestly recommended it, to the respective States to which they belong, to make such other provision for them, as their circumstances and merit entitle them to.

I have nothing further to add, but my sincere wish that justice may be done to the troops; in which cases I do not entertain the least doubt, but that they will fulfill the engagement on their part, with fidelity; -- will continue to do their duty

as brave and faithful soldiers, in defense of their insured country, with reputation to themselves and honor to the State.

I am, with the highest esteem & regard

Your Excellency's Most Obedient Humble Servant

Israel [*pronounced "IZ reel"*] Putnam

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull.