

[Mordecai Gist, Annapolis, to the Honble The President of the
Committee appted to take into consideration the requisition of
Major General Greene]

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Sir It appears by the last returns of our Troops that the State of Maryland want 1951 men to compleat their quota, agreeable to the Establishment made by Congress the 21st Ult. I beg leave to offer you a few thoughts on a plan for raising them which I submit to the consideration of the Committee with every Sentiment of deference and Respect.

Suppose the number of Inhabitants in the State to be 30,000, that number divided into 2000 Classes will give 15 men to each. The property in each of these Classes to be proportioned as equal as possible and each Class call'd on to furnish One Man by a fix'd period of time for the War: Otherwise to be subjected to a Draught, every Recruit or substitute so furnished shou'd continue in his Regiment as the representative of that Class during the War, and in case of Death, Desertion &^{ca} the Class whose representative he was, shall furnish another in his place on report of the Commanding Officer who shall Transmit the name of such soldier specifying the County he did belong to the Governor & Council of the State who shall require the Lieutenant of such County to Order such Classes to furnish another man within one month from the Date of such requisition or become subject to a Draught as afs^d By this plan we may always count upon 2000 men in the Field. Agreeable to the present establishment Five Commissiond Officers & Five Drums & Fifes must remain in the State to Recruit. those will be constantly employ'd in adding to the 2000 Draughts by voluntary Inlistments, and in receiving such deficiencies as the Lieutenants of the Counties may be call'd on for. it will also engage every man to be equally Interested in the success of our Arms, or event of an Action, and prevent the Iniquitous practice of furnishing bad men for the Army, in whose services or Integrity no confidence can be placed. The recent example of this practice and its consequences are evident in the Recruits raised for the State Regiment, as the whole number of Troops now in Service by virtue of the last Draught amount to no more than 381 men, large numbers having Deserted immediately after the acceptance of the Bounty money & perhaps stand protected even by the Classes who furnished them

No abuses of this kind can happen when each Class are Obliged to continue their representative in the Field as it will effectually prevent the harbouring & concealing Deserters, give respectability to our line & (I hope) general satisfaction to the good people of the State

I shall feel myself happy if in this essay I have offerred any thing worthy of your Approbation.