

By the House of Burgesses July the 9th 1696

U. H. J.

We have with our utmost care and scrutiny considered the Clause in the Law for Religion and as we are earnestly desirous to Propagate the same out of the sence of our Duty to God Loyalty to his most sacred Majesty and imitation of his Excellencys most noble and worthy Example so we Conceive we ought not altogether to be unmindful of the rights and Liberties of our selves and those we represent

We are earnestly desirous rightly to understand his Excellency and to be rightly understood by him and therefore have endeavoured to find out an Accommodation of words that may answer all intents by putting in the words Laws and Statutes of England instead of the words Fundamental Laws of England.

We are not in the least doubtful of our Liberties or rights being infringed by our Gracious Sovereign or our noble and worthy Governor and do Sincerely acknowledge that his Excellency Governs by the fairest measures and freest Administration of the Laws that we are Capable of understanding and therefore have not any Apprehension of his invading our rights and Priviledges. We firmly believe ourselves and those we Represent to be within the benefit of all Liberties and Priviledges of English free born Subjects being Granted to this Province by his Majestys Royal Predecessor Charles the first King of England and Generally used in the Government of this Province

We believe our Sacred Sovereign exposed his Royal Person to hazard for Preservation and maintainance of the rights and Liberties of those dominions to which we belong and therein has been perpetually protected by an immediate Finger of God against all the Attempts of his Enemies to the contrary

And therefore as it has been always usual for Parliaments under Gracious Good Kings to have reiterated and Confirmed to them their Antient Rights and Liberties both in Church and State which we find by experience they have frequently prayed for and Obtained we cannot distrust but his Majesty will Graciously confirm the same to us at our humble motion and therefore we humbly offer these reasons why that Clause may be continued in the Law

I We find that King Henry in his Grant of the Great Charter annexed the Priviledges and Liberties of the Church and State together by comprizing them in one Grant tho in several Paragraphs or Chapters therefore we hope his Sacred majesty will Accept of our imitation thereof and cannot but believe us to be unmindful of ourselves if omitted by us.