

July 15, 1787

Dear Virginia Delegate,

I am Lavan Cliburn of Kanawha County, Virginia. I run a small bank in the town of Charleston. There have been many people moving to our area lately and near the Ohio River to farm. I have helped many farmers purchase tools and other things to set up their farms. I have made a nice profit by helping these farmers out. Lately, I have heard that people are dissatisfied with our national government, the Articles of Confederation. I write to you to tell you that it has a great many merits and should be kept.

The Ordinance of 1787 has helped get more people move to the area Northwest of the Ohio River. This was a very effective law that the Congress of the Confederation passed. As more people are moving to farm the area near the river, I have been able to make small loans so they are able to succeed and these loans have helped me be a success, also!

The Articles of Confederation have organized the post offices to deliver letters across our new nation. I moved to western Virginia from Richmond a few years ago. Since the post delivers all the messages from my family back in Eastern Virginia and I am able to tell them of my great success and how I hope soon to be able to sent for them to come once I have saved enough money to purchase a home.

Some have said that since the central government can not collect taxes that it will not be effective. However, my patriotic friends in Boston fought heartily against taxes from the king. More taxes from the government is certainly something that we do not need in Virginia.

Thank you for your service as our delegate from Virginia. I hope you take my concerns with you to the next meeting of the congress and that you fix what needs to be fixed, but not throw out this new organization for American governance.

In deepest appreciation,

Lavan Cliburn

July 1787

Dear New York State Delegate to Congress,

I heard that some of the delegates in Congress wanted to get rid of the Articles of Confederation. I think this is a good idea.

I want you to know that the Articles of Confederation are no good. They are not helpful to people like me! I fought in the war and have made a lot of sacrifices so that my friends and family are not ruled by a king thousands of miles away over the ocean. My children and wife depend on the success of our farm. I want to offer my children a good education in Albany, but if we cannot trade

As a farmer in the Mohawk River Valley of New York it is hard to trade with customers in nearby Pittsfield, Massachusetts. New York dollars are different from Massachusetts dollars, and it is hard to deal with two different kinds of money. Also, I read in the Springfield Beacon about some farmers, just like me, in Massachusetts who lost their farms because they could not pay the very high taxes! But in New York, my taxes are much less costly.

I think that the Articles of Confederation need to be fixed. America needs one type of money--for people in Massachusetts, New York, Georgia and all the other state. Also, my friends and customers in Massachusetts should not be taxed so dearly--maybe if a more fair tax would be made for all people in America.

Please fix these problems,

Adalbert Humperdinck