

New Jersey Act of Ratification, 20 November 1778

An ACT to authorize and empower the Delegates of the State of New-Jersey, in Congress, to subscribe and ratify the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the several States.

Whereas Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia*, signed in the General Congress of the said States by the Honourable *Henry Laurens*, Esquire, their President, have been laid before the Legislature of this State to be ratified by the same, if approved: And whereas, notwithstanding the Terms of the said Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union are considered as in divers Respects unequal and disadvantageous to this State, and the Objections to several of the said Articles lately stated and sent to the General Congress aforesaid, on the Part of this State, are still viewed as just and reasonable, and sundry of them as of the most essential Moment to the Welfare and Happiness of the good People thereof, yet under the full Conviction of the present Necessity of acceding to the Confederacy proposed, and that every separate and detached State-Interest ought to be postponed to the general Good of the Union; and moreover, in firm Reliance that the Candour and Justice of the several States will, in due Time, remove, as far as possible, the Inequality which now subsists;

Sect. 1. Be it Enacted *by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby Enacted by the Authority of the same*, That the Honourable *John Witherspoon, Abraham Clark, Nathaniel Scudder and Elias Boudinot*, Esquires, Delegates representing this State in the Congress of the United States, or any one or more of them be, and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed on Behalf of this State, to subscribe and ratify the said Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the several States aforesaid.

2. And be it further Enacted *by the Authority aforesaid*, That the said Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union so as aforesaid subscribed and ratified, shall thenceforth become conclusive as to this State and obligatory thereon.

Passed at Trenton, November 20, 1778.

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