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James Madison to Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia, 12 December 1788 (excerpt)

The inclosed letter has been just sent me by Miss Rittenhouse and I avail myself of the delay of Mr. Morris to give it a conveyance. Since mine already in the hands of Mr. Morris further returns have been recd. from the Western Counties of this state, which tho' not the entire residue, reduces the final result to certainty. There will be seven representatives of the federal party, and one a moderate antifederalist. I consider this choice as ensuring a majority of friends to the federal Constitution, in both branches of the Congress; as securing the Constitution agst the hazardous experiment of a second Convention; and if prudence should be the character of the first Congress, as leading to measures which will conciliate the well-meaning of all parties, and putting our affairs into an auspicious train. . . .

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *Ratification of the Bill of Rights*, Volume XXXIX: Bill of Rights, No. 3 (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2023), 415.