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Joint Committee Response to Governor Hancock's Speech, 27 January 1789

May it Please your Excellency,

AGREEABLY to your direction, the Secretary has laid before the two Branches of the Legislature, the proceedings of Congress, and other papers, which will be noticed with that attention their importance demands.

We are happy to find that your health is so far restored as to enable you to meet the General Court, and by a personal interview to deliver your communications.

The accession of another State to our Union, by so large a majority of its Citizens, is a happy presage of those blessing we wish to obtain by the adoption of the Federal Constitution. — We are convinced that the strength and respectability of the confederation, essentially depend on the united exertions of all the Independent States of America. From this consideration we sincerely hope, that the citizens of Rhode Island, will at their ensuing convention exercise their wonted patriotism, and by their decisions compleat the Union. Thus allied under one Federal Government, and by paying a strict attention to its administration, we cannot but anticipate Peace, Liberty and every National Happiness.

The propositions for amendments in the Constitution of the United States, will be carefully considered by the Legislature. We are anxious that the whole body of the People should have the fullest confidence that their rights and liberties are secured to them in the general Government, by the most explicit declarations, which have a tendency to give energy to its authority and laws.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXXVII: Bill of Rights: Origins, 501-02.