Bristol Freeholders Petition to the General Assembly, pre-31 March 1788

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island &c. to be Convened at East Greenwich on the Last Monday of March AD 1788—

The Petition of the Subscribers Freemen and Freeholders of the Town of Bristol in said State most Respectfully Sheweth—that your Petitioners are deeply impressed with The Conviction of the Expediency of having a State Convention holden in this State for the purpose of discussing and deciding on the New Constitution proposed for the United States. This measure in the opinion of your Humble Petitioners is become Expedient not only from that decent Respect which is due to those who first Recommended it—but we conceive it will afford the Advocates and opponents of this New System of Goverment an Opportunity fully to Examine and display all its Excellences, and all its defects and the People of this State, from so liberal a discussion will be fully Qualified in point of Information to decide on the important Question by their Delegates in the State Convention Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that your Honors will be pleased at the Next Session, to Recommend to the freemen of this State to Elect Delegates in the Several towns to meet in a State Convention fully and freely to Examine and discuss the new Constitution fully and to decide thereon—

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever [pray?]

Josiah Finney           Nathaniel Smith 2d
Richard Smith           Jeremiah Diman
Willm Gladding          James Diman
Sam Church              Samuel Smith
John Waldron             John May
George Coggeshall       John Gladding
Jonathan Peck           John Norris
Jonathan Peck Jr        John Gladding Junior
Seabury Manchester      Joseph Diman
Joshua Gladding         Richd. Smith Jr.
Isaac Wardell           Jonn. Russell
William Smith           Stephen Smith
Benjamin Wardwelle       Samuel R Pain
Jos. W. Greene           Jeremiah Ingraham
Tho Church 2d.           Nathl. Smith
Saml. V Peck             Moses Van Doorn
Simeon Munro            Saml Wardwell
Daniel Lefavour         A Bonam
Charles DWolfe           Jonathan Diman
Josiah Smith             William Coggeshall
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<tr>
<td>William Fales</td>
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<td>William Munro. 2d</td>
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<td>Simeon Ingraham</td>
<td>Solomon Drown</td>
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<td>Newton Waldron</td>
<td>William Lindsey</td>
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<td>[Eza?] Cooke [sr?]</td>
<td>Benjamin Hoar</td>
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<td>John Waldron 2d</td>
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