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the Articles of Confederation by the States In Congress

New York, 23 June 1778

*Act of Ratification, 6 February 1778*¹

An act of Accession to, and Approbation of certain proposed Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, between the United States of America, and to authorize the Delegates, of the State of New-York, to ratify the same on the Part and Behalf of this State, in the Congress of the said United States. Passed the 6th of February, 1778.

Whereas the Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence of the said States, which, with a Magnanimity, Fortitude, Constancy and Love of Liberty, hitherto unparalleled, they have asserted and maintained, against their cruel and unrelenting Enemies, the King and Parliament of the Realm of *Great-Britain*, will, for their lasting and unshaken Security, in a great Measure depend, under God, on a wise, well concerted, intimate and equal Confederation of the said United States. *And whereas* the Honorable Congress of the said United States, have transmitted, for the Consideration of the Legislature of this State; and for their Ratification in Case they shall approve of the same, the following Articles of confederation, *viz.*

[Text of Articles of Confederation]

And whereas the Senate and Assembly of this State of *New-York*, in Legislature, convened, have separately taken the said several Articles of Confederation into their respective most deliberate and mature Consideration; and by their several and respective Resolutions, deliberately made and entered into for the Purpose, have fully and entirely approved of the same;

In Order therefore, That such Approval may be published and made known to the whole World, with all the Solemnities of Law; and that all the Subjects of this State, and others inhabiting and residing therein, from Time to Time, and at all Times thereafter, as long as the said Confederation shall subsist and endure, may be bound by and held to the due Observance of the said Articles of Confederation, as a Law of this State, if the same shall be duly ratified by all the said United States in Congress assembled.

Be it enacted, and declared by the People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority of the same, That the said several above recited Articles of Confederation and all and singular the Clauses, Matters and Things in the same contained, be, and the same are hereby fully accepted, received and approved of, for and in Behalf of the People of this State.

And to the End that the same may, with all due Form and Solemnity, be ratified and confirmed by this State in Congress;

Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Delegates of this State, in the said Congress of the United States of *America*, or any two of the said Delegates, shall be, and hereby are fully authorised, impowered and required, wholly, intirely and absolutely, for and in Behalf of the People of this State, and in such Manner and under such Formalities, as shall be determined in Congress, to ratify and confirm, all and every of the said above recited Articles of Confederation, and all and singular the Clauses, Matters and Things in the same contained; and that on Exemplification of this Act, tested by his Excellency the Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor or President of the Senate of this State, for the Time being, administring the Government, and authenticated with the Great Seal of this State, shall be full and conclusive Evidence of this Act. *Provided always,* That nothing in this Act, or the said above recited Articles of Confederation contained, nor any Act, Matter or Thing, to be done and transacted by the Delegates of this State, in Congress, in and concerning the Premises or any Part thereof, shall bind or oblige, or be construed, deemed or esteemed to bind or oblige the Government, Legislature, People, Subjects, Inhabitants or Residents, of this State, until the said above recited Articles of Confederation, shall have been duly ratified, and confirmed by, or in Behalf of, all the said United States in Congress assembled; any Thing herein, or in the said above recited Articles of Confederation contained to the contrary thereof, in anywise notwithstanding.

Journals of Congress, 23 June 1778

The delegates of New York being called upon for the report of their constituents respecting the Articles of Confederation, produced under the Great Seal of their state an exemplification of the act of the legislature thereof ratifying the said Articles as passed by Congress, with a proviso that the same shall not be binding on the state until all the other states in the Union ratify the same.

1. Governor George Clinton submitted the Articles of Confederation to the legislature on 16 January 1778. Both houses were virtually unanimous in support of the Articles, and only two members objected to the 11th Article. The Assembly also proposed to delete the words “on the Part and Behalf of this State” from the title of the act, but the Senate refused to agree. The act was sent to the Council of Revision on 5 February. The Council approved the act the next day, and Governor Clinton signed it on 16 February.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. I: Constitutional Documents and Records, 1776–1787 (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 111–13.