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## Pennsylvania, 25 June 1778

### *Act of Ratification, 5 March 1778*<sup>1</sup>

*The REPRESENTATIVES of the Freemen of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met,*

*To the Honourable Benjamin Franklin, Doctor of Laws, Robert Morris, Esquire, Daniel Roberdeau, Esquire, Jonathan B. Smith, Esquire, James Smith, Esquire, of York Town, William Clingan, Esquire, and Joseph Reed, Esquire, Delegates for the said Common-Wealth in the Congress of the United States of America, send Greeting.*

KNOW YE, That We the said Representatives, having taken into our most serious and weighty consideration and deliberation, the Articles of Confederation 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, lately transmitted to us by the Honourable HENRY LAURENS, Esquire, President of the said Congress, Do, by this present instrument, signed by our Speaker and sealed with the seal of the Laws of this Common-Wealth, accede to, ratify, confirm, and agree to the said Articles; which said articles are as follows, to wit.

[Text of Articles of Confederation]

And We the said Representatives do hereby authorise, impower, require and enjoin You the said *Benjamin Franklin, Robert Morris, Daniel Roberdeau, Jonathan B. Smith, James Smith, William Clingan, and Joseph Reed*, or any [two] of you, in the name of the said Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania to accede to, ratify, confirm and agree to the said Articles of Confederation. IN TESTIMONY whereof We have caused the Seal of the Laws of Pennsylvania to be hereunto affixed in General Assembly at Lancaster, the [5th] day of [March], in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-eight.

### *Supreme Executive Council to the Delegates in Congress, Lancaster, 30 April 1778*<sup>2</sup>

The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, thoroughly persuaded that the complete establishment of the Confederation of said states must greatly consolidate the Union, and invigorate the negotiations of Congress at this important juncture, do hereby add their concurrence in the Articles of Confederation, now under public consideration, to the acceptance and consent of the legislature of this state; and do recommend to you, gentlemen, to use your best endeavors and influence in forwarding the said business, which Council consider as of the highest importance to the honor, advantage and safety of the United Body of North America.

*Journals of Congress, 25 June 1778*

The delegates of Pennsylvania were then called on for the report of their constituents relative to the Articles of Confederation, whereupon,

They moved in behalf of their state,

1. In the first paragraph of 5th Article to expunge the words “for the remainder of the year.”

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 2 Ayes, 8 Noes, 1 divided.

2. That such part of the 9th Article as respects the post office be altered or amended so as that Congress be obliged to lay the accounts annually before the legislature[s] of the several states.

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 2 Ayes, 9 Noes.

3. In the 5th paragraph of the 9 Article to expunge the word “White.”

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 3 Ayes, 7 Noes, one divided.

4. In the last section of the 9th Article after the word “delegates” add “respectively.”

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 1 Aye, 10 Noes.

1. The Articles of Confederation were read on 8 December 1777. They were considered on 16–17 December, and then dropped until 25 February 1778. On 3 March a committee, consisting of John Read, James McLene, and Robert Whitehill, drafted the resolutions which the Assembly adopted on 5 March.

2. The letter was addressed to all of the delegates mentioned in the resolutions, save Benjamin Franklin, who was in Europe.

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