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Instructions to the Convention Delegates

New Jersey, 24 November 1786

Resolution Authorizing and Empowering the Delegates, 24 November 1786

Resolved, That the Honorable David Brearley, William C. Houston, William Paterson and John Neilson, esquires, commissioners appointed on the part of this state,¹ or any three of them, be, and they hereby are authorized and empowered to meet such commissioners as have been or may be appointed by the other states in the Union at the city of Philadelphia, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the second Monday in May next, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Union as to trade and other important objects, and of devising such further provisions as shall appear necessary to render the Constitution of the federal government adequate to the exigencies thereof.

1. John Neilson resigned from the delegation before the Convention met, and the legislature appointed Abraham Clark and Governor William Livingston on 18 May. Clark declined the appointment on the ground that it was inconsistent with his duties as a member of Congress. Jonathan Dayton was appointed to replace Clark on 5 June 1787.

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