

**State of New-York. In Senate, August 17th 1798. Ordered that Mr. Foote and Mr. Frey deliver a copy of the resolution, (relative to the proposed amendments to the constitution of the United States) to the Hon. the Assembly and request their concurrence ... [Albany] Printed by Loring Andrews & Co. Printers to the State [1798].**

**STATE OF NEW-YORK,** *In Senate, August 17 th, 1798.*

ORDERED, That Mr. Foote and Mr. Frey deliver a copy of the resolution, (relative to the proposed amendments to the constitution of the United States) to the Hon. the Assembly, and request their concurrence.

*By Order.*

**ABRAHAM B. BANCKER,** *Clerk.*

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Boston, July 12 th, 1798.*

SIR,

THE two branches of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, have thought it highly necessary that some constitutional barrier should be opposed to the introduction of foreign influence into our National Councils, and have requested me to transmit the enclosed resolutions to the supreme executive of the several states in the Union, that the same may be submitted to the consideration of their respective Legislatures, in order that the Constitution of the United States may be so amended, as to effect more fully the great objects for which it was designed.

The Legislature of this Commonwealth, strongly impressed with the necessity of the measure, have though it expedient to take this preparatory step; and it is hoped, when the Legislature of the State over which you have the honor to preside, shall be in session, and contemplate the importance of the subject, this Commonwealth will find itself greatly supported by a concurrence in the measure—To their wisdom it is submitted.

I must take the liberty of requesting your Excellency to inform me of the determination of the Legislature of your State upon the subject, as soon as it shall be known.

I have the honor to be, With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Very humble Servant.

INCREASE SUMNER.

His Excellency Governor JAY.

Gentlemen,

HIS Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has in a letter dated the 12th day of last month, transmitted to me, for the purpose of being laid before the Legislature of this State, a concurrent and unanimous resolution of the House of Representatives and of the Senate of that Commonwealth, and approved by the Governor. The object of it is to obtain an amendment of the constitution of the United States, to provide against the introduction of foreign influence into our national councils.

I think it my duty to lay these interesting papers before you, and to recommend the important subject of them to your consideration.

JOHN JAY.

*Albany, August 10, 1798.*

STATE OF NEW-YORK.

*In Senate, August 17 th, 1798.*

WHEREAS it is highly expedient that every constitutional barrier should be opposed to the introduction of foreign influence into our National Councils, and that the Constitution of the United States should be so amended as to effect and secure, in the best manner, the great objects for which it was designed: thereupon,

Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States be, and they hereby are requested to use their best endeavors that Congress propose to the Legislatures of the several States, the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States. viz. That (in addition to the other qualifications prescribed by the said Constitution) no person shall hereafter be eligible, as President or Vice President of the United States, nor shall any person be a Senator or Representative in the Congress of the United States, except a natural born citizen, or unless he shall have been a resident in the United States at the time of the declaration of

Independence, and shall have continued either to reside within the same, or to be employed in its service from that period to the time of his election.

And whereas the spirit of amity and mutual concession which produced the Federal Constitution ought always to be cultivated, in the proposition and adoption of any amendments to the same:

Resolved further, That in case the Senators and representatives of this State in Congress, shall find, that the amendment above proposed is not perfectly conformable to the wishes and sentiments of a constitutional majority of both branches of the National Legislature, they are hereby requested so to modify the same as to meet the sentiments of such majority. Provided however, and it is the wish and opinion of this Legislature, that any amendment which may be agreed upon, should exclude at all events, from a seat in either branch of Congress, any person who shall not have been actually naturalized at the time of making this amendment, and have been admitted a citizen of the United States fourteen years at the least, at the time of such election.

Resolved further, That his Excellency the Governor be and he is hereby requested, to communicate the foregoing resolves to the Supreme Executives of the several States, with a request, that the same may be submitted to the consideration of their respective Legislatures. And that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Hon. the Assembly be requested forthwith to transmit the same to the Senators and Representatives of this State in Congress.

*By order and on behalf of the Senate.*

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, *President.*

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