

Apr 18 1804

Sir

To Thomas Jefferson President  
of the united States

That I who am but a private citizen should attempt  
to address a few lines to one of so eminent Character and  
Station. to one who is the head and ruler of a nation  
is to me a considerable task. yet what is more reasonable  
than for a child to look to his parents for such things  
as he needs. I therefore in like manner and with the  
same Reverence Look up to you as the parent or head  
ruler of this nation for what I conceive to be absolutely  
necessary. at the early period when the Constitution was  
formed it was thought necessary to appoint one Represent-  
=ative in Congress for every thirty thousand inhabitants  
which might perhaps been necessary at that time. but  
the number of inhabitants has increased so rapidly. that  
there is a much greater number in the house of Congress  
than is necessary to enact Laws for the united States at  
this day. and the increase will still be greater for years  
to come <sup>which will</sup> raise the number to a great amount. by  
Reason whereof the expences has increased and still are  
increasing to a much greater degree for the greater the  
the number the less progress and the greater the expences  
and whereas it is a principle object in a Republican  
government to save all unnecessary expences  
I therefore request you to take it into Consideration whether  
it will not be expedient for you to recommend to Congress  
to amend that part of the Constitution I should suppose  
that one <sup>half</sup> the number that are now in the house would be  
Sufficient to enact Laws for the united States



but perhaps it may be said that ~~number of inhabitants~~  
~~of~~ the united States have increased in wealth in the same  
proportion as it has in number of inhabitants be that  
as it may I am sure that expence might be saved  
and the money appropriated toward our publick Debt.  
if then one half the number is sufficient the other  
half might be at home improving their farms or  
employed in their differen occupations which would be much  
more benefit to the publick then to Live on six Dollars  
a day at the publick expence I am with the deepest  
Sense of gratitude your faithful Subject

Sanderton. Sussex County

John Loder Jun<sup>r</sup>

New Jersey 18<sup>th</sup> of  
April 1804

Loder John Jun<sup>r</sup> Sanderton N.J. Apr. 18. 04.  
rec<sup>d</sup>. 11/12/17.