

Martin Chittenden VT (8th Congress United States, 1803)

The representative of Vermont, a Federalist, supports a robust central government. Such a government is necessary for cohesive action to be taken by the states. Vermont also supports the Judiciary Act of 1801, and will object to any attempt on the part of the Congress to rescind it. The Act has two advantages: first, it expands the judiciary branch, which allows for cases to be addressed in more expedient fashion; secondly, it rescues Supreme Court justices from having to ride circuit, therefore allowing them to heed cases brought to the court. The Judiciary Act of 1801 must be maintained for the sake of the Republic.

With regards to *Marbury vs Madison*, it is the position of the representative of Vermont that the right of judicial review correctly belongs to the Supreme Court. This position is in line with that of the great Federalist himself, Alexander Hamilton: “The courts were designed to be an intermediate body between the people and the legislature, in order, among other things, to keep the latter within the limits assigned to their authority. The interpretation of the laws is the proper and peculiar province of the courts.”¹

The representative of Vermont proudly speaks for the first state to abolish slavery. Thus, Vermont strongly opposes any expansion of slavery into the Louisiana Territory. Any purchase of the territory must include provisions to restrict the extent of slavery and, ideally, plans to eventually abolish it entirely there. Beyond the issue of slavery, Vermont supports the purchase. The United States is weakened by bordering a French territory; purchasing the land thus makes us more secure.

¹ Hamilton, Alexander. *The Federalist Papers*. Washington: Library of Congress, 1998.