**Position Paper for the 8th United States Congress**

**Democratic Republican U.S. Senator from Virginia**

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*Topic 1: The Barbary Wars*

The piracy business that has been adopted by the Barbary States including Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli has proved to have extremely detrimental effects on the development of the United States. At the beginning of the 17th century the pirates switched from galleys to sailing ships which allowed the consequences of piracy to impact the Atlantic Ocean, the Canary Islands and Iceland, creating an even larger threat to the commercial interests of the United States. So much so that in the 17th century the Algiers managed to kidnap more than 20, 000 sailors. This is unacceptable. As a representative of both Virginia and the Democratic-Republican Party I must highlight the urgency of permanently destroying their operation which is interfering with our economic advancement. Our state relies strongly on our agricultural industry and therefore it is necessary that we are able to export goods such as tobacco and cotton without facing the possibility of annihilation.

As a previous member of the continental army I have witnessed firsthand the economic damage caused by the fight for American Independence. By the end of the war $140 million had been spent[[1]](#footnote-1). I am confident that our economy is still fragile and in need of the profit gained from Virginia’s leading agricultural exportations while it would only suffer further by complying with the absurd demands of Tripoli. In fact the United States is currently paying $20,000 annually (today’s dollars) in order to send naval supplies to North Africa to ensure the safety of our vessels[[2]](#footnote-2) in addition to the $80,000 that the Congress authorized to be used in peace agreement negotiations which are not working. This cost is too much for little to no benefit. The fact that the payments must be made annually allows no time for economic recovery. This will cause the United States to continually sink further into debt with little hope of improvement without the ability to rely on the commercial industries. In contrast, once the war is paid for there is no more payment required.

Although European powers have appropriated various methods of dealing with this crisis which involve negotiating treaties of payment, this is not an effective or feasible solution for the United States. Similar to the views expressed by Thomas Jefferson, I believe that we must meet them with strength and action. The navel’s functioning and funding will be as follows. President Jefferson will be authorized to provide, equip, and employ four ships with forty-four guns, and two ships each with thirty six guns. Each ship will have a captain, lieutenants, and surgeons as well as various warrant officers who will be appointed by the President. The captain will receive the highest pay of around seventy-five dollars per month with six rations per day, and the other rankings will receive a decreasing amount of payment based on their position. This means that the whole sum for the given pays will not exceed twenty-seven thousand dollars per month. In addition, the rations will consist of foods like bread, beef, rice, pork, peas, beans, cheese, potatoes, turnips, pudding and many will be served as one pound per day.[[3]](#footnote-3) In combination with these logistical plans we must work together once again as “one patriotic band of Brothers”[[4]](#footnote-4) by asking each stage to present a group of 100 or more soldiers. The economic needs will include funding for the training of the army as well as for certain equipment. In terms of providing advanced sailing ships, Virginia’s lumber industry will contribute the wood needed to construct the ships. When General George Washington led the Continental Army he emphasized the importance of morale, coordination with other governors and state militias, steady relations with congress, and further attention towards supplies, logistics, and training. Therefore despite the low citizen support and funding the army managed to win the military struggle for American Independence.[[5]](#footnote-5) I believe that these same techniques will be extremely useful when fighting the war against the Barbary States.

Thus by encouraging courage and unity we can defeat the Barbary States and end the piracy practice for good.

*Topic 2: Marbury v. Madison:*

An effective and well-balanced three branch government is the basis of a great nation which is exactly why it is essential that the Judiciary Act of 1801 be revised in favour of a more limited federal government with more state power. However there are some cases in which it is necessary for the judiciary branch to use “judicial review” to stop certain legislation as it is important that the constitution of the United States be complied with at all times. A prime example of this situation is the Marbury v. Madison case involving one of the so called midnight appointments, federalist William Marbury. After former Federalist President John Adams appointed several federalists to positions within the judiciary branch on his last day of presidency, President Thomas Jefferson rightly recommended that the cabinet ignore such appointments and instead appoint Democratic-Republicans. Jefferson’s recommendation was completely justified as these midnight appointments were clearly an attempt to maintain Federal control by establishing many federalist supporters within the judiciary.[[6]](#footnote-6) However, when William Marbury who was previously appointed Justice of the Peace, was refused commission by Secretary of State, James Madison he demanded a writ of mandamus from the Supreme Court in order to force Madison to respect the former appointment. Although the Judiciary Act of 1789 granted that the Supreme Court did have the power to issue the writ of mandamus, John Marshall’s Supreme Court ruled against this on the basis that the congressional act went against the Constitution’s Third Article which states that judicial power extends “to all cases affecting ambassadors, public ministers, and other consults,” none of which applied to Marbury.

While this satisfies President Jefferson’s intentions on the surface, it is actually a maneuver to establish a significant amount of judiciary power as it implies that the Supreme Court has the capacity to strike down legislation that they deem to be unconstitutional. This provides the federal government with an extensive amount of power because it means that the members of the Supreme Court, most of whom have been appointed by John Adams, can void acts of Congress or the Executive branch, which is made up of democratically elected officials. This creates a barrier in the ability to express the views of the people.

This issue of overwhelming federal power also extends to the Judiciary Act of 1801 which has several modifications to the judiciary branch that increase federal power. This includes reducing the number of justices on the Supreme Court from six to five in addition to increasing the number of justices on the circuit courts from three to six. It also strengthens federal power alternatively to local and state powers, by giving federal courts jurisdiction over more aspects of the law including rulings “over all cases arising under the constitution and acts of the United States.” The act also expanded the criteria of a federal case so that federal courts have more jurisdiction. Consequently, this act weakened state powers and instead allowed federalists to gain more power by securing judges and appointees within the judiciary system that are supportive of a federal political agenda.

Therefore in order to achieve a well-balanced government system we must repeal the Judicial Act of 1801 in order to limit the federal government and issue more state power as the judges of the states should be able to decide about state laws.[[7]](#footnote-7) One adjustment concerning criminal law is that any criminal acts that are committed within one state must be dealt with by the state court, and can only be transferred to a federal court if the crime is committed in multiple states. This increase of state influence will prove to be more effective in addressing the needs of the people and governing the growing society of the United States.

*Topic 3: Louisiana Purchase:*

The territory of Louisiana holds much monetary and societal worth and I strongly believe that the purchase of New Orleans and the Louisiana territory will aid a great deal with the growth of the United States. The economic value of the land comes from large deposits of minerals and ores such as iron, gold, and silver, as well as the implications for the trading industry. The port of New Orleans provides unrestricted access to the Mississippi River which is currently the only way to efficiently export our goods consisting of flour, tobacco, pork, cider, cheese, and more. This access is essential to our trade with the northern Atlantic states and even at the international level, and our economy is heavily depending on the ability to export these agricultural products. In addition to this, fur trade with the North American Indians has become an important element of our economy which is why friendly and commercial relationships must be established with them.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Unfortunately, in 1802 Juan Ventura Morales defied the Pinckney’s Treaty and restricted the United States from being able to deposit goods for export without any taxation and this change presents a major threat to our economy which can be eliminated if we make this purchase.

President Thomas Jefferson has asked Congress for funding to send explorers up the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean in order to find a way to cross the new territory by following rivers and streams. This solution is likely to help create networks with various Indian tribes to support American fur trade, which is why I support this exploration and encourage other expeditions as it is important to understand the full value of the territory including the more unfamiliar areas.

At this time there are multiple positive implications of purchasing the Louisiana territory. Firstly, the land itself is rich with various minerals and ores and it would allow the expansion of territory into the south. This provides huge economic potential especially along with the control of the New Orleans port. We need to take advantage of this economic opportunity as the foreign minister of France has actually offered the territory to the United States with a negotiable price. This purchase will occur through a constitutional amendment which would allow the purchase of foreign territory or the treaty will be submitted to the Senate as a second plan of action.[[9]](#footnote-9) Since this land is so valuable, we must be willing to pay a good sum of money, and I know that the price will soon be paid off by the conveniences that the territory offers. I also know that the idea of Manifest Destiny and the pro-expansion opinion has become very popular amongst the American population, meaning that it will not be difficult to convince the public of the necessity of the purchase. In fact many American settlers in New Orleans are outraged by their end of deposition rights and are even willing to use force to seize the port from the French. However this strategy would prove to be far too expensive with no guarantee of success. The United States must also consider our place in the international spotlight as the purchase of the Territory will enhance our already thriving foreign policy. The purchase would emphasize the power of American diplomats, put pressure on European governments by proving the ability of American expansion, and increase international presence leading to more expansion, allies, and/or trade partners for produce.

The expansion could also create a slave trading capital which is beneficial as slavery is essential to economic activity in Virginia and other southern states. However I do acknowledge the danger of a slave revolt that has arisen. This is why the slave laws must be addressed accordingly to limit this possibility.

If the Louisiana territory is purchased, it should be governed by the Government of the United States, led by Thomas Jefferson, and a new governor will be appointed on the recommendation of Jefferson. The new territory will be run as a part of America rather than exploiting it for solely economic purposes like the French did. This allows the United States laws to be implemented and in force in an area that doubles the size of the United States, provoking freedom and equality for all citizens.[[10]](#footnote-10) Furthermore, once the territory is more explored, the government will ideally begin to invite settlers, mostly families with the aspiration of starting farms and plantations, to the new territory. This allows us to make full use of the port of New Orleans for exporting goods and selling portions of the land for cheap prices will encourage the development of a community and bind the territory more closely to the United States. It will also ensure that we can use the New Orleans port to enhance International Trade. Another economic policy that will be implemented is taxing countries that import goods through New Orleans that compete with goods produced in the United States so that we can grow our own capabilities Additionally, it is important that the population which will probably be composed of people from various countries including France, Germany, and Spain is properly integrated with the American settlers. This will be key to growing the American population and developing the new territory as an American state.

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