*Delegate of Thomas Sumter*

*The 8th United States Congress*

*Megan Fanjoy*

*The Bishop Strachan School*

*November 10, 2016*

**Position Paper**

The United States of America formally declared independence from Britain’s control through the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Since then, America has taken many steps to advance the influence of the nation and assure the world that it is an independent, free, powerful country. However, issues still prevail in America, which must be addressed in order to further advance the country as a whole and ensure America’s role on the world stage.

1. **Topic One: Barbary Wars**

Barbary States, such as Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli are a threat to not only America, but also other nations around the world. As these city-state nations depend on piracy for their livelihoods, they will not rest or end their invasions unless defeated through the involvement in war. Although economic concerns regarding the cost of war is an important factor to in consider, ultimately the cost of war will be less than just paying tribute. Congress can enforce strict rules regarding budget to ensure America maintains a strong economy and does not overspend on war materials and militia. Moreover, by invading and enslaving American ships, Barbary ships are blockading American trade with other nations in Europe and around the world. The significant decrease in trade has already taken a toll on the American economy, which is why the time for action is now. Previously, American citizens have tried to negotiate peace treaties and negotiate ransoms for stolen ships, but with the small budget that congress has approved, it is impossible for any missions to succeed. Therefore, the budget for tribute will continuously increase and for what? These states will never feel content with the amount of tribute offered, will continue to grow stronger and will continue to invade. If America were to comply with the tributes and not go to war, what would this say about the strength and resilience of the beloved country? As President Jefferson said, “it was a matter of principle that the US must not stop fighting and simply pay tribute.” America must assert its dominance and strength on the world stage as a developing but powerful nation. America was founded upon the ideals of strength, reliance, determination and standing up for what is right, which was shown through breaking away from the British monarchy. America will continue to cherish and promote these ideals through fighting for their country against the Barbary States.

1. **Topic Two: Federal Judiciary System**

The Judiciary Act of 1801 shaped the new judiciary branch of the United States. While it reduced the size of the Supreme Court from six justices to five and eradicated the justices’ circuit duties, it strengthened federal rather than local or state powers by giving them the power to make decisions under the constitution. This act further encouraged Americans to heavily rely on federal rather than state courts due to the division between the states to establish more circuit and district courts. As seen through President Adam’s appointment of only federalists to various judicial jobs, which eventually led to the *Marbury versus Madison* case, this act only allowed Federalists to gain more power. Moreover, this act weakened state sovereignty as it weakened the ability of the State to have control over itself and its decisions. Therefore, judiciary reform needs to take place and this act needs to be repealed. It is imperative that this act is replaced with a different act, which favors both the Federalist and Democratic-Republican perspectives – not only one party. The new act can be tailored to fit the perspectives of both parties by allowing the members to be elected by the general public, rather than being appointed by the president. This system would prevent the bewilderment and ignorance of the new cabinet when they come into power by acknowledging the fact that democracy will prevail and must be accepted in order for the country to advance as a progressive nation. Moreover, the federal government should play an important role in the country, as it controls not only the foreign affairs of the country, but also various laws that affect the entire nation. However, as stated in the constitution of the United States, “in order to form a more perfect union” the people of the United States “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty”. Thus, in order for these ideas to be performed, the federal government should and must adhere to its important role in the country.

1. **Topic Three: Louisiana Purchase**

In 1801, American diplomats in Europe heard rumors that Spain had been forced to transfer its Louisiana territory to its ally, France. France, now led by the war loving genius, Napoleon Bonaparte, has shown a genuine interest in the land. However, recently there have been reports that an abundance of French forces were wiped out by yellow fever in St. Dominique after trying to regain control of the island. Thus, without a stronghold on the island, it is highly unlikely that a French presence will remain in Louisiana. Since Napoleon is thinking of selling the land, to focus on a new European militia, America must seize this opportunity to move westward and gain control of the land. Although congress has had some concerns regarding the price of the territory, the benefits that this unknown land will provide for America in the future will compensate for the initial price of the land. An essential influence that this purchase will have on America is the unification of the country. This purchase would unite the Atlantic states in New England to the rest of the citizens around America. This purchase must be made in order to prevent Napoleon from taking over North America and in order to avoid a future conflict with French citizens. Secondly, there are many economic benefits to the purchase of this territory. Although the initial cost would have some negative impacts on the country, the territory has plentiful economic potential. Such as, the land is full of rich minerals such as gold and silver. Moreover, slavery of African Americans could be used all around the southern territory to keep labor costs low in relations to the states agriculture and plantations. Although slavery could also be used in the northern part of the territory, Congress recognizes that northern America has abolished the ideals of slavery. Slaves could be brought in directly from Caribbean Islands or Africa through the New Orleans’s port. Access to the Mississippi river would allow for an increase in trade with other nations and further exploration of the new territory. Finally, not only would this purchase almost double the size of America, but it would also increase the United State’s presence on the world stage. Let this be a threat to any nation that tries to overthrow the country that America is strong, independent and developing faster than ever before.

**Bibliography**

"General Thomas Sumter - City of Sumter, SC." *General Thomas Sumter - City of Sumter, SC*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <http://www.sumtersc.gov/general-thomas-sumter>

"History of the Federal Judiciary." *History of the Federal Judiciary*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/landmark_03.html>

"Thomas Sumter." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-Sumter>