

PETITION

OF

A NUMBER OF CAPTAINS OF STEAMBOATS AND OTHERS
INTERESTED IN THE NAVIGATION OF THE WESTERN
RIVERS,

PRAYING

The construction of a canal around the falls of the Ohio on the Indiana side.

JANUARY 6, 1845.

Referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

We, whose names follow, captains and others, principally interested in the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, beg leave respectfully to represent:

That, owing to the continued delay in the construction of a competent canal around the falls of the Ohio, on the Indiana side, the commerce between the Eastern cities and the Southern and Western States has continued to labor under the most pressing embarrassments—embarrassments so great as, it is now confidently hoped, will, at the earliest possible period of the present session, secure the prompt and effectual action of your honorable body.

To establish the necessity of the work, we need only refer to the numerous authentic statements and statistics laid before Congress within the last four years, showing, first, the almost incredibly great and every day increasing importance of the trade between the East and West; and, secondly, showing the utter inadequacy of the present Portland canal to the wants of that trade, not merely from its limited construction, but from its being so placed in a line with the current of the Ohio as to cause its being perpetually choked with sediment and drift wood.

We further solicit the attention of honorable members to that passage in the President's message which refers to "appropriations for the Western waters," and which, in a constitutional and most laudable spirit, gives sanction to such works as have been "ascertained, by previous examination and survey," to be necessary for "the public interests and the general good." In both these essential particulars, *being required by the public good, and having been surveyed by the officers of the Government*, the proposed

canal is *precisely* such a work as the passage contemplates, as a reference to the able report and survey of Captain Cram, of the United States corps of topographical engineers, (made pursuant to a resolution of Congress,) will abundantly show. With respect to the plans furnished in Captain Cram's elaborate and satisfactory report—that is to say, whether only a sufficiently extensive work shall be constructed on the Indiana side to accommodate the entire wants of the trade, or whether a more limited work shall be there established, and such an improvement effected in the Portland canal as it may be susceptible of, and *thereby* supply “one channel for the ascending and another for the descending boats”—we leave to the decision of Congress, and commit the accomplishment of this noble and patriotic work to their energy and wisdom, and their desire to promote “the public interests and the general good.”

DECEMBER 17, 1844.

WILLIAM WOODRUFF, steamer Lexington.

D. M. FOSTER, Minstrel.

JABEZ SMITH, Oregon.

JOHN FULTON, James Madison.

B. C. LEPPER, do. do.

JOSEPH SCOTT, Fort Wayne.

C. A. SHEPHERD, do. do.

WILLIAM NEUELL, JR., steamer Levant.

WILLIAM HOUQUE.

E. BENNETT, steamboat Majestic.

A. BENNETT, steamboat Revenue.

W. H. FULTON, do. do.

McLEAN, captain steamboat Valley Forge.

JOSEPH SUMRALL, do. do. do.

MASON, captain steamboat Gov. Floyd.

G. BERRY, do. do. do.

JOHN W. CUMMINGS, engineer do.

A. WILLIAMS, steamboat Lady Madison.

WILLIAM JINKER, captain Monticello.

AUGUSTUS ISHAM, do.

J. BLAIR SUMMONS, Ben. Franklin, No. 6.

WILLIAM HENRY BINGTON, do.

WILLIAM A. STEWART, pilot do.

S. P. HIBBERD.

J. LEWIS BLACK, steamer Louis Phillippe.

WILLIAM L. SUMMONS, steamer Laurel.

THOMAS R. HOPE, steamer Lelia.

WILLIAM JOHNSON, pilot.

C. A. WRIGHT, do.

J. PARKER, engineer.

JAMES A. PAYNE, steamer Samuel A. Law.

SAMUEL G. ISHAM, William McIntyre.

NELSON CROOBS, steamboat Clipper.

LINAS LOGAN, captain steamer J. Marle.

JOHN CHRISTIE, engineer do. do.

F. SMITH, clerk do. do.

JOSEPH SMITH, captain steamer Alequepper.
 ALPHEUS MARTIN, clerk do. do.
 SAMUEL RULPH, engineer do. do.
 FRANK SAWYER, do. do. do.
 JAMES H. LOUDERBACK, pilot do.
 WILLIAM CLARKE, do. do.
 JOHN ARMSTRONG, capt. steamer Pike, No. 7, 261 feet long.
 J. C. WOODWARD, steamboat Archer.
 JOSIAH STOUT, captain steamboat Meteor.
 A. BARNES, clerk do. do.
 WILLIAM McLAIN, steamboat Mentor.
 MARCUS COLLINS, captain steamboat Cutter.
 J. L. LEWIS, clerk do. do.
 W. L. HANSBURY do. do.
 JAMES ELLIS, captain steamer Empress.
 A. R. IRVIN, clerk do. do.
 JAMES B. ROBINSON, steamboat Swiftsure, No. 3.
 JOHN L. ROBINSON, clerk do. do. do.
 A. WILSON, pilot do. do. do.
 MARTIN FRAZER, do. do. do.
 E. C. HAZLETT, captain Revenue Cutter.
 JAMES BLACK, clerk do. do.
 WASHINGTON BROWN, captain steamer Ashland.
 B. KEPNER, clerk do. do.
 J. W. SMITH, do. do.
 G. MULEN, do. do.
 D. F. BARKER, steamboat Daniel Boone.
 M. S. DIMMITT.
 JOHN KLINTFELTER, captain steamer Hibernia.
 JAMES KERR, Jr., clerk do. do.
 Z. PARSAWAY, captain Express Mail.
 NATHAN M. NOBER, clerk do.
 JOHN E. NOBER, do.
 W. H. BOYCE, captain John O'Fallon.
 ALEXANDER S. HALSTEAD, engineer.
 CHARLES HARRISON, do.
 J. H. BOYCE, clerk.
 C. R. SEDAM, captain steamboat Duke of Orleans.
 E. W. CUMMYS, clerk do.
 LEWIS KROUSKOPF, steamboat Duke of Orleans.
 ROBERT BRASHER, pilot do. do.
 ISAAC WEST, 1st engineer do. do.
 ANDREW SWEENEY, 2d engineer do. do.
 DAVID WHETTEN, captain steamboat Belle of the West.
 W. F. HAMILTON, clerk do. do. do.
 H. W. RUSSELL, clerk of steamboat Queen City.
 C. E. CLARKE, of steamboat Utica.
 PHILIP ANSHUTZ, steamboat El Dorado.
 J. H. JONES, clerk do. do.
 HENRY A. JONES, captain Queen City.
 M. S. LYONS, clerk of Utica.

M. COLLINS, steamer Cutter.
 A. G. BOWEN, agent do.
 D. CAMPBELL, captain steamboat Wing and Wing.
 J. BUGHER, clerk do. do. do.
 J. J. WARMAN, captain steamboat Little Pike.
 JAMES L. AVERY, clerk do. do.
 JAMES IRWIN, captain Ohio Belle,
 M. L. VIRDEN, clerk do.
 JAMES B. SUMMONS, captain Dr. Franklin.
 J. H. KIRBY, steamboat Wheel of Fortune.
 PRES. N. WILKINS, clerk.
 JOHN T. WASHINGTON, captain steamboat Isaac Shelby.
 WILLIAM NEWELL, Jr., captain steamboat Levant.
 WILLIAM HOGUE, clerk do.
 J. A. DOHONEY, steamboat Fulton.
 W. B. COLLIER, clerk do.
 SAMUEL BUCKLE, captain Queen of the West.
 EDWARD SARGENT, clerk do. do.
 C. G. PEARCE, captain steamboat Cincinnati.
 CHARLES C. SACKETT, clerk do.
 NAPOLEON BARCLAY, captain steamer Bell Air.
 DANIEL STONE, captain Monongahela.
 URIAH LAWRENCE, owner do.