

*consequences very injurious to the commercial interest of Great Britain and her colonies, and must terminate in the eventual ruin of the latter.* Your petitioners, therefore, most ardently implore the attention of the Honourable House, to the united and *dutiful representation* of their circumstances, and to their earnest *supplications* for relief from those regulations, that have already involved this continent in anxiety, confusion, and distress.

We most sincerely recognize our allegiance to the crown, and *acknowledge all due subordination to the Parliament of Great Britain*, and shall always retain the most grateful sense of their assistance and protection; it is from and under the English constitution, we derive all our civil and religious rights and liberties; we glory in being the subjects of the best of kings, and having been born under the most perfect form of government: But it is with most ineffable and humiliating sorrow, that we find ourselves, of late, deprived of the rights of granting our own property, for his Majesty's service, to which our lives and fortunes are intirely devoted, and to which, on his royal requisitions, we have ever been ready to contribute to the utmost of our ability.

We have also the misfortune to find, that all the penalties and forfeitures mentioned in the Stamp Act, and divers late Acts of trade, extending to the plantations, are, at the election of the informer, recoverable in any court of admiralty in America. This, as the newly erected court of admiralty has a general jurisdiction over all British America, renders his Majesty's subjects in these colonies liable to be carried at an immense expence, from one end of the continent to the other: It also gives us great pain to see a manifest distinction made therein, between the subjects of our mother country, and the colonies; in that the like penalties and forfeitures, recoverable there, only in his Majesty's courts of record, are made cognizable here by a court of admiralty. By this means we seem to be, in effect, unhappily deprived of two privileges essential to freedom, and which all Englishmen have ever considered as their best birth-rights, that of being free from all taxes, but such as they have consented