

Richard Bard to John Nicholson, Franklin County, 1 February 1788

I lately received a Letter from Coll: [Abraham] Smith which I would suppos was directed to me by you, I found it contained a Petition to the Assembly respecting the late proposed constitution. I have copped it and has sent coppys thereof to the several Townships in the County. The Copy that I drew off for the Township [Mercersburg] in which I live will be sighnd by the people in general very willingly. If I was to judge of Franklin County by the Township in which I live I think there will be at [least] ten persons that will sighn the petition for one that will refuse to do it. By a Letter that I lately received from my Brothr at Bedford I am informed that Peopele in general in that County are sighning the petitions that were sent to them—I think it would be well done if some Gentlemen would send petitions to the different Countyes with particular Instructions to particular Persons to take the care of them.

I have frequent opertunity to hear what the people beyond the Allegany Mountain thinks of the new Constitution. They are enraged at it, and even in york county where all the members in the late Convention voted for [sd?] constitution there are great numbers of the people much dissatisfyd I am very confident that on the West side of the Susquehanna in this state there is at least nine out of every ten that would at the risk of their lives & property be as willing to oppose the new constitution as they were the British in their late desighns—There is some of your neighbors in Philadelphia which if they should have any occastion to travel toward the Westenen end of this state I think that it would be prudent in them to make their Wills before they leve Home

P.S: Sir please to excuse this hurried piece—

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