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### Petition from the Large Holland Harbor Committee to Mr. Kinglsey S. Bingham, Governor of the State of Michigan

Albertus C. Van Raalte

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13 January 1858

Holland Ott: [Michigan]

On behalf of a large Holland Harbor committee, Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte, writing in the third person, authored a petition to Mr. Kingsley S. Bingham, Governor of the State of Michigan, requesting funds in the amount of \$45,000 for the development of a harbor for the opening of Black Lake to Lake Michigan. People whose names appear on the petition include persons also from the Towns of Fillmore and Newark [Laketown?].

Original on microfilm in the Albertus C. Van Raalte Papers, box 3, microfilm roll reel 237-1, H88-0230.

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delivered in display

Wingolley S. Bingham  
Republican

36

To his Excellency the Governor of the State of Michigan  
L'Anse-au-Loup, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Dear Sir! It is the duty of all subjects to make known to their lawful magistrates all their desired good or dreading evils. And whereas we acknowledge your honorable person as our Father and true protector who remain to acknowledge to be your faithful subjects and fellow citizens. And as we recognize your honorable person appointed by providence as having authority and power, and according to your duty to look for such good as may tend to the welfare of your fellow citizens and to protect and release them from all fatal and arbitrary acts, Acts which will be to our ruin to us and our children and eventually devastating. And will have a numerous tendency to lands which do yet belong to the State and Government and also to speculators. Namely when these men may have the luck by their fair speaking and waxing words, to gain so much on your honorable person to accept their petition for the raising of a tax on all our taxable property for the purpose to negotiate a loan by them contracted of \$450,000 for the opening of Black Lake and to have an unobstructed navigation in the mouth of Black Lake to the village Holland raising a tax on real and personal property (of one percent) for the period of eighteen years. The projectors and gentlemen of this contrivance say that this period will be shorter when the result will be favorable. They say that our possessions will raise in value 20 percent every year by the innumerable sources of wealth which are connected with the opening of the Harbor and which never will be realized. And although it may be profitable for us and for the State that we really believe. But in a situation as we for the present are is it impossible and impracticable to accomplish. While we are a poor people, and are yet a people who are kept up by hard and diligent labor with the blessing of God and who can hardly pay the present yearly tax and some are yet unable. Now what shall it be when taxable property shall raise twenty percent every year. Therefore then we pray you that you will not accept the countenance of Wm. M. VanNatta and his coadjutors whereas he is an audacious man and dares to contrive plans which will prove and have proved ruinous and caused destruction to all them who borrowed their hand to it. So that those



Who believed their Sophistry and were deceived had to sacrifice everything they had to such projections While they afterwards almost came to faint and pray to God in Heaven for bread on account of this imaginary plan, Which promised to be lucrative but turned to fatal results. And therefore Sir do we think that this plan will yet surpass all other plans made before. And so dear Sir and Govr nor we do pray will not give your admittance to them that we afterwards may come to the necessity of leaving this country Wherein we hoped our Citizenship should be established and to live a still honest and godly life contributing to fear of which is feared and to God Which is God. - Mar Sir! Don't get angry that we are a little prolix but bear us patiently a people except a few who are not instructed in the wisdom of the Grecian Sages. (Although these are not always the best) But we are a people, and the descendants of a nation Which carry in our Shields or escutcheon Faithful to the King even to the beggar's pouch. - But we shall maintain ourselves and by all lawful means continue to pray that you may hear our petition. That our poor Settlers may not become a prey of these fortune-hunters, Which really nothing have to lose and who call it their business to live large easy Sweet and extravagant to the expense of the poor Settlers. (not to blame the Govr) And the slaves Which now adulterate the Goddess and say great is Idras of the Ephesians and not being the danger shall not stand the proof. But leave it unaccomplished abandoned, and will not concern themselves the least about it leaving our poor farmers behind in trouble and misery. Now Sir! pray take it in consideration if the estimated sum of \$100,000 should not answer the purpose and it should run to that figure earlier reported by the united States (some say one Who took a topographical view and estimated the work to cost \$100,000. What would be our destination. Therefore then we pray hear us that we not have to abandon our adopted country and go to ruin. With this our prayer do we subscribe D S your most sincere and obedient servants.

Advsy to J. Van Dam care John Doer.

J. Brouwer. L. Troost. E. Hoewe. W. Winkels. M. Grinnis. G. Hunderman.  
Jan Van Dam. Jan Huls. W. van den Berg. Hend. Hunderman.  
Jan Mart. Bertheld. Gredereld. A. Gredereld. H. Mart. W. van Spuyke.  
M. Heyboer. J. Mulder. Klaas Visscher. Hendrik. Seyner. W. Hunderman.  
J. Huls Jr. K. Hunderman. D. B. Man.

Town Pellamore J H Meppfand Berent Kämp. B Eppink. Harm Boudelaer  
B Boudelaer. G Siebelink. J A. Siebelink. J Ridger Harm Lukas. M Boud  
Lamb Pienink H J. Vaydeken. Harm Tyfink. J Tyfink K. Notting  
J. Jans. Karelle P. Boven Cornelis Lokke

Town Newark Harm Boud Lukas Finkholt Gerrit Ridger  
Willem West de K. A. J. Klompars Geert Wolbert. H. Lubber W. Lemme.  
Derk Ten Kate. Jan Boud J H. Lambert Steven Lukas & H. Lukas

**Albertus C. Van Raalte Papers**

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