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### Petition to the Governor of Michigan from a Large Number of Citizens in Ottawa County

Albertus C. Van Raalte

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22 January 1858

Holland, [Michigan]

A petition was made to the governor, Kingsley S. Bingham on behalf of a large number of citizens in Ottawa County for funds for the improvement of the Holland Harbor. The handwriting is that of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte but the document is written in the third person. The amount requested is \$45,000. Some of the names of the committee are A. Hartgerink, P. Stegenga, E. Luidens, H. Jekel, and P. Naber.

Original on microfilm in the Albertus C. Van Raalte Papers, 1840-1847, Microfilm Roll Reel 237-1, Box 3, Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College, H88-0230.

and capriciousness of our fellow citizens, when there are among those  
nothing else, and are only here, as office hunters, petty jobbers, do nothing  
and have nothing, nothing but laws, spells, and who live at the ex-  
pense of our purse. Who not give whether we have in debt, city or  
prosperity. And others who are implicitly carried along will bury them-  
selves in debt irredeemable. Now Sir! we could tell you a great many  
grievances besides what we have said but keep our word for the present  
and strike the sails, praying that it will please you Hon. to take the  
Subject in consideration. And we do say and demand that who wish  
to join us will never agree to vote in favor that our property will be betayd  
but we shall wait for the future and hope that the result will be favorable  
and not to our and our fellow citizens downfall and destruction.

Adres to Willem J Mulder Nieuw en nu toe due respect your faith:  
Holland P.O. dtt. 19 Mich. full servant and fellow citizens. -

Joh. Boer. W. J. Mulder. P. Thiel. P. Nabel. J. Nabel. A. K. Timmer. D. W. N.  
J. de Haan. L. J. Broel. A. vers. J. Helder. H. van Hinderink. A. Kapenga. D. vork. P. vork.  
J. de vork. G. J. Abbing. F. Tibbe. H. Kruyt. J. Wamers. Harm. Brock. P. vork. G. vork.  
B. van Dyk. K. W. Mulder. F. A. Huringa. Jan. Geerts. H. Jekel. J. Grootjans.  
P. Bos. P. van Dyk. T. Bos. M. Hulstbos. P. Heyboer. G. Heermeester. A. vogel.  
F. J. Heyboer. H. Waryen. A. Houtgerink. P. Verduin. A. de V. Bosch. P. Vandey.  
Borch. H. W. Willink. F. de K. Dromma. J. Smit. G. Vogel. K. vogel. G. Grootink.  
H. Bisschop. H. Bisschop. H. Bisschop. D. Anys. J. Kuffers. T. Kuffers. K. Wemmer.  
K. Wemmer. J. van Dyk. C. Smits. W. Smits. C. Smits. J. Smit. H. Oosterdyk.  
J. Oosterdyk. P. Steginga. S. Steginga. A. Smit. M. Steginga. M. Nieuhius.  
A. Suisema. G. van Dyk. A. G. van Dyk. J. ten Have. J. G. van Dyk. W. Wemmer.  
P. Trek. L. Daggel. J. de Dinn. E. Luiderus. Jan. Veldheer. H. de V. Althuis.  
Jan. van Tongeren. Jan. Tredde.

To His Excellency Governor of Michigan  
 Kingsley S. Bingham

Holland Jan 22<sup>d</sup> 58

D.S. Sir, by the utmost necessity that we petitioners address ourselves to you as the Governor of our State from whom we expect and hope to hear our petition. We are Sir! Citizens of Township of Holland (& Ottawa) who are overcharged with heavy taxes and subjected to heavy burdens in excellence to other Towns on account of the long bridges and many cross-ways we have to build over gullies and low over Swamps and swails; and the taxes we have to raise for these necessary purposes are almost impossible to be paid, in addition to ordinary toil hardships and penals of our present life. Now Sir! to these intolerable burdens is yet added by Rev. A. M. and companions another plan, for the opening of Black Lake to have an unobstructed ingress and egress in the mouth of Black Lake, to the village of Holland. It is said that to execute this plan, so as projected by them, will cost \$45,000, to be paid in a period of 8 years at the raising of one percent on all the taxable property. We are also told that our possessions yearly will increase, to the value of 20 pc. But to our view the great scarcity of money will cause, that the next adjustment our possessions or value will be diminished some 25 pc. and our productions with a decline in price which makes it hard for us to raise this our present tax. Although we are told that innumerable profits are connected with the opening of a Harbor and which will never be realized. And if eventually the plan would be accomplished and the result should be beneficent which we not deny, but in a State as we are at present is it impracticable and impossible to do, and to commence a work which is out of reach to us. A people who deprived of means and kept up by diligent labor and sobriety. And for the citizens of H. T. L. O & Olive will cause total destruction and ruin. And however we hate to leave this our adopted country we shall have to abandon it, and set out for another country or state where freedom shall reign and where no oppression shall be, nor autocracy shall be endured for whereas the plan becomes a law is it impossible for us to bear. Therefore then do we pray will not admit their petition, and will not suffer that we are destroyed by these fortune hunters and if the work once should be commenced and accepted by your Hon. and the sum of \$45,000 was not sufficient. What should be done? Probably a second raising to a \$100,000 as proposed by the United St. Commissioners. And what will then be the result? We are inadvisable. And therefore is it that we prostrate for you in Obedience praying that your Hon. will hear us in our sufferings and rescue and protect us from importunity and

**Albertus C. Van Raalte Papers**

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