

# Transcribed Excerpts from Petition about Navigation Rights of Mississippi River, 1793

*TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.*

*The Remonstrance of the Citizens West of the Allegheny Mountains.*

*Respectfully Sheweth.*

THAT Your Remonstrants are entitled by Nature and by stipulation, to the undisturbed Navigation of the river Mississippi, and consider it a right inseparable from their prosperity. That in colonizing this distant and dangerous desert (sic), they always contemplated the free enjoyment of this right, and considered it as an inseparable appendage to the country they had sought out, had fought for, and acquired.

... We have, without ceasing, deplored to you our degraded situation, and burdened you with our humble petitions and requests ...

From the General Government of America, therefore, your Remonstrants now ask protection, in the free enjoyment of the navigation of the river Mississippi, which is withheld from them by the Spaniards. We demand it as a right which you have the power to invest us with ... We declare it to be a right which must be obtained; and do also declare, that if the General Government will not procure it for us, we shall hold ourselves not answerable for any consequences that may result from our own procurement of it. The God of nature has given us both the right and means of acquiring and enjoying it; and to permit a sacrifice of it to any earthly consideration, would be a crime against ourselves, and against our posterity.