

To the Honorable the Representatives of the free-
men of the Delaware State in General Assembly met

The petition of Oliver Evans of the County
of Newcastle respectfully sheweth

That your Petitioner hath long had in
Contemplation the very great Powers of Steam and
the Pressure of the Atmosphere And hath at great
expence of Study Time & Labour in Various Experiments
made for the Purpose, Invented an entire New Plan of
applying said Powers to the Propelling Land Carriages
to travel with heavy Burdens up and Down hills
without the aid of animal force with such Velocity
as may be convenient, and be guided by a Person sitting
therein secure from the inclemency of the weather — But
to Execute said Plan completely, will require more
Time, Labour & Money than your Petitioner can think
prudent to expend, without hopes of considerable
Profit in case of complete success — Therefore your Peti-
tioner Prays your Honours to grant to him his Writs
and assigns an exclusive Right of Propelling all
Land Carriages by the Power of Steam and the Pres-
sure of the Atmosphere for the Term of fifteen years
and your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever Pray

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Oliver Evans

May 28th 1787

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Petition of Oliver Evans
for an exclusive Privilege
to construct Steam Carriage

June 4. 1787.

Read.