To the Honourable, Senate, & house of Representatives of the State of Delaware Assembled —

Gentlemen — being a part of your Constituants. and holding you in high Estimation as the Legislative branch of our State — we consider it a privaledge to which we are intitled to make an appeal to your honourable body — whenever a law Exist that has an injurious bearing on us — or our honest rights and privalages, as the only proper Authority for revising or Repealing the Same — The legislature in years past for the Encouragement of Religion and Good Morals was pleased to Grant an Act of incorporation to the Religious Societies of this State, Authorising them to organize their Corporate powers agreable thereto — at the Same time pointing out what property might be held by them and how — In the 3rd Section of that law, it is provided; that in the Case of any Gift or Grant of Moneys, hereditaments, or lands, by any will or deed in writing Must be made twelve Callender Months before the Decease of the Donor; from the fact before you, as will appear from the Registers office that but few wills are made that lenght of time befor the testators Death — Consequently how ever Competent the testator may be Should he leave a Mony to a Corporate body — the Legatees are placed on very unequeal Grounds by the third Section of the forementioned Act — we have we fear already lost one legacy left by one of our members on that Ground alone. as Citizens we believe our Rights Should be maintained wether Corporate or not by the

Just and Equeal laws of your body.- and believing that your honourable body would revise or Change any law, which would prevent, a person who was Co[illegible]s Mentes, at the time; from giveing or directing his Estate as he wills and desires it;- and also holding it as a correct principal that the law aught Equeally to secure the Rights of Legatees - we do most Earnestly petion and pray you! to revise or Change so much of the third Section of the law for incorporating Religious Societies in this State, as will enable us to hold as a Legal Incorporated body any and every legacy that may hereafter be granted to us ~~in any other Society~~, where the will shall be Established and Remain in law - Relying upon your attention to our humble petions and hoping to obtain our just request - we will as in duty bound ever pray. &c

done and Signed by order of the Welch Tract Baptist Church & Congregation in New Castle County State of Delaware

Iron Hill 19th Jany 1830

Stevens W Woolford Pastor

Jonathan Bee Chairman of the Trustees

Honourable Presley Spruance
Speaker of the Senate
Dover
Delaware

Petition of
Stephen W. Woolford
& Son & Others
in relation to
Religious Society
Read & referred
to Messrs Johnson
Tindal
Caulk
1830