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Friends, & Fellow-Citizens

The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the Executive Government of the United States, being now far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust ~~for a~~ ~~term~~, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made. —

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without a strict regard to all the considerations appearing in the relation, which binds a dutiful citizen to his country — and that, in withdrawing the tender of service, which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interests, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but ^{am supported by} ~~actuated~~ a full conviction

himself for four generations. -

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a Man, who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for ~~four~~ ^{several} generations. - I anticipate with pleasure expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to reside, without alloy, the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow Citizens, the benign influence of good Laws under a free Government - The ever favourite object of my heart, and the happy reward, I trust, of our mutual cares, labours and dangers.

Continuation of the foregoing
proceedings of the Court
at the City of New York

United States }
19th September } 1796 }
G. Washington