

Honorable Mention, Dear George Washington Contest 2013
Madeleine Rice, Fifth Grade
Friends Academy

Dear President Washington,

My name is Abigail Johnson. I am an educated merchant from Brooklyn and was recently elected Governor of New York.

On April 30, 1789, I listened to your inaugural speech and I am concerned. Mr. President, do you believe that the new government should take the responsibility of the debt that each of the states borrowed for the revolutionary effort? If so, how should the government pay it back?

As Governor, my focus is building businesses, homes and schools for the families of New York. To accomplish this, the debt incurred by New York State must be paid. The new Constitution has given Congress the power to tax the citizens of all the states, raising money for the Revolutionary War debt. New York has already begun to pay our debt by confiscating and selling properties of Loyalists. Also, since New York harbor is the country's busiest port, imported goods can be taxed. The federal government should pay the debt slowly. Increasing individual taxes fast puts too much stress on our families.

A federal financial system with the establishment of a United States bank and a national coinage system should be created to fund the national debt and assume the state debts. An internal tax placed on goods and on certain private properties can be put aside into the national treasury for the debt. Expanding the federal union from 11 to 16 states brings in more revenue. Foreign governments, like the Dutch, and private individuals can assume part of the government's debt to relieve some of the burden from the states too.

Mr. President, a united national financial system which assumes our war effort debts will give us the ability to focus on New York trade, businesses, and schools and make us one united country.

Sincerely,

Abigail Johnson