

North Searsport, Me.  
Dec. 4 - 1863

To His Excellency,

Abner Coburn, Gov. of Maine.

Dear Sir

I have received a letter from an Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. of Me. Vol. in relation to the appointment of Major in said Regt.

By this letter I learn that Capt. Robert H. Gray of Com. I has been recommended  
1<sup>st</sup> By all the line Officers of the Regt. present.  
2<sup>d</sup> He has been recommended by the Colonel.  
3<sup>d</sup> He has also been recommended by Brig. Gen. Ward for the Office of Major; Yet in the face of all this evidence from the field, who are most interested and better qualified to judge of the ability necessary for the Office Capt. Gray is likely to be defeated by a mischievous political influence, not connected with the army Having taken an active interest in the efficiency of our Maine Regiments

and in the Support of our present  
administration in the prosecution  
of the war take the liberty of  
Saying that I hope Your Honor  
will not regard any political  
influence or that it will in  
any way Cause You to treat the  
<sup>expressed</sup>  
choice of those brave patriots  
in the field with Contempt.

I learn there is much feeling in the  
Regt. in relation to this matter.

Capt. Gray has earned his popular-  
ity in his Regiment by his own merit  
and I do humbly beseech Your Honor  
not to make any appointment  
against the expressed wishes  
of the Regt. as all such appoint-  
ments are well Calculated to  
injure the efficiency of our arms.

Very Respectfully  
Walter Nichols