

Wid. Brs. 5th Maine Regiment

Camp in the Field November 14-1863

To His Excellency Abner Coburn

Governor State of Maine

Sir:

I have the honor respectfully to state that through the severity of battles and active campaigning during the past two and half years - ^{this regiment} has been greatly reduced in numbers - being scarcely able to furnish at this time 225 men for a fight. The entire aggregate of the regiment is 491 of which 183 are absent on detached service, many of the latter I know to have been discharged or have died, though no official communication has been received to that effect, and are of necessity borne upon our rolls. We have just been engaged in one of the most glorious actions of the war, (and our 15th battle) the late affair at Rappahannock Station. And now I have the honor respectfully to request that the influence of your Excellency may be exerted with the Secty of War that this regiment may be ordered home to Maine for the purpose of recruiting its ranks. I understand that such a measure is to be consummated regarding the 6th Maine, and I entertain no doubt that such a request from you relative to this regiment would be immediately complied with. There is no doubt but such a measure would receive the hearty approbation of the

division - corps - and army commander, assurances having even been given to such an effect. The influence the presence of my regiment would exert in Maine this winter, would, I think, act strongly and favorably in filling, not only our own decimated ranks - but those of other Maine regiments.

I have the honor to be, Governor

Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt. Servt

W. S. Lawrence

Col. 6th Maine Regiment