

Honorable Mention, Dear George Washington Contest 2013
Melina Kazanas, Fifth Grade
Friends Academy

James McCreary is a farmer from Virginia, who is in favor of abolishing slavery, but worries about what might happen afterwards.

May 1789

Dear Mr. President,

I am Mr. James McCreary, a farmer living on a plantation in Virginia. I am married with four daughters, and make my living from planting and harvesting sugar.

I hope that you will focus on the issue of slavery during your first term as president.

It seems to me that our new government must abolish slavery. How can we have slavery in a country that has been formed so its people may have "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"? If we really want a democracy, then we cannot have these rights for some, not all. Even though I have slaves and benefit from having them, I am in favor of abolition since the practice has always bothered my mind, and not felt right to me.

But, I hope your government will also think about what will happen if slavery is stopped. A sudden abolition, without a plan for afterwards, would be terrible for everyone. Many freed slaves will not know where to go and what to do. They will need direction. Farmers will also need help. They will suddenly not have the labor needed to harvest their land, making it very difficult to earn a living and also to produce goods for the country. Even though some politicians (for example, Mr. Alexander Hamilton) might disagree, agriculture is still an important part of our economy, and must not be forgotten in favor of industry and business. Farmers' rights must also be considered and protected.

In closing, I respectfully request that your new government will address the issue of slavery, and put an end to it, but will not forget the farmers, for many of us are very good, hardworking men.

Thank you Mr. President, and God bless America.

Sincerely,

James McCreary