

Dear Sir

As one of Col<sup>l</sup> Taylors Council I take  
the Liberty to solicit you on Behalf of Billy a  
Negro Man belonging to that Estate, who is now  
under Sentence of Death, by the Judgment of the  
Court of Prince William County. The Crime for which  
he is condemned, & the Proceedings of the Court will be  
made known to you by the enclosed Papers. Not  
entertaining a Doubt myself of the Illegality of  
the Sentence of the Court, I earnestly entreat you  
(if it can be done) to grant a Pardon to the Fellow  
but if that cannot be done, to reprieve him.

I have the  
Honor to be with great Respect Sir  
Yours most obed<sup>t</sup> & devoted  
Mans<sup>l</sup> J<sup>l</sup>

Manassasfield  
May 13<sup>th</sup> 1781

Reprieve of Billy by Thomas Jefferson. 13 May 1781. Manuscript.  
Virginia. Governor's Office. Executive Papers of Governor Thomas Jefferson, 1779-1781. Acc.  
44393. State Government Records Collection, The Library of Virginia.  
12-1070-002

