

Senate Chamber 1 July 1840

Dear Sir/

If it were possible, I would greatly prefer that the democracy of Pittsburg [sic] might be consulted by you in selecting as successor for Major Lynch. Your determination, however, to make the nomination tomorrow renders this impossible; and compliance with your request ^{made to} Dr. Sturgeon and myself. I feel no hesitation ~~in suggesting the name of~~ ^{all the circumstances in recommending the} appointment of Major K. Moorhead ~~of Pittsburg as a suitable person to be appointed Postmaster.~~ I know that he would have been most extensively & powerfully recommended for the appointment, had he not ~~determined that he would not~~ ^{been unwilling to} interfere with the re-appointment of Major Lynch; and if time could now be afforded, I believe he could present the strongest claims before you. ~~I know that Governor Porter is to my knowledge~~ ^{who knows him well has} great confidence in him & is his warm & devoted friend; & in my opinion, he is a gentleman in every respect well qualified to discharge the duties of the office; whilst, at the same time, he is an active, decided, & influential politician. ~~In the absence of all information from the democracy of Pittsburg on the subject, I think, that under the circumstances Major Moorhead would be the most judicious selection.~~

Yours very respectfully,

James Buchanan

His Excellency

Martin Van Buren.

[On back: 1 July 40. Copy of a letter addressed by me to the President, recommending the appointment of Major Moorhead.]

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