

MAJ. CASSIUS E. GILLETTE.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

RECOMMENDING

LEGISLATION TO ENABLE MAJ. CASSIUS E. GILLETTE TO ENTER  
THE SERVICE OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

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DECEMBER 15, 1905.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, December 15, 1905.

SIR: I am in receipt of a communication from the Hon. John Weaver, mayor of Philadelphia, in which, with the advice and consent of the select councils, the request is made that Maj. Cassius E. Gillette, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, be permitted to accept the appointment of chief engineer of the bureau of filtration. This to enable the municipal authorities to complete an important filtration plant which is now in process of construction.

In view of the requirements of section 1222 of the Revised Statutes, the sanction of Congress will have to be obtained to enable Major Gillette to accept the appointment which has been tendered him. Having regard to the exceptional character of the work and the peculiar circumstances of the case, I approve the request of the mayor of Philadelphia and recommend that I be authorized to issue a leave of absence for one year, subject to revocation at any time at the discretion of the Secretary of War. A copy of Mayor Weaver's application is transmitted for the information of the House of Representatives.

Very respectfully,

W. M. H. TAFT,  
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MAJ. CASSIUS E. GILLETTE.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,  
*Philadelphia, November 23, 1905.*

MY DEAR SIR: In June last you were kind enough to assign Maj. Cassius E. Gillette, of the United States Army, for duty in Philadelphia. Since that time he has been investigating the construction of a filtration plant here in which he has done such splendid work that I have, with the advice and consent of select councils, tendered him the appointment of chief engineer of the bureau of filtration, in order that the city of Philadelphia can complete that very important public work. This offer has been made to him subject to the approval of the President and the National Congress.

Will you kindly let me know whether such approval can be obtained and what it will be necessary for me to do to obtain it.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours, very truly,

JOHN WEAVER.

Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT,

*Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.*

[First indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
*Washington, December 1, 1905.*

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

While the present duties of the Corps of Engineers are such as to render the detachment of any officer undesirable, on the ground of its throwing additional work on other officers, the Chief of Engineers is not disposed, in consideration of the nature of the call and precedents established, to make any objection to a favorable response to the request of Mayor Weaver.

Should the President look favorably upon the request, it is recommended that Mayor Weaver be informed that to secure the detail will require Congressional action authorizing the Secretary of War to grant Major Gillette leave of absence without pay, and that he, Major Gillette, be authorized to accept the position tendered him.

Similar legislation is found in joint resolution No. 26, approved April 20, 1904, in the case of Lieut. Col. (then Maj.) Thomas W. Symons, Corps of Engineers.

A. MACKENZIE,  
*Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.*

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