

SUMMARY: This petition, although endorsed 1594, dates from circa 1587 since it is a suit to Lord Burghley by the purchasers of Oxford's lands requesting that the leaseholders of those lands be assessed a proportionate share in the scheme for repayment of Oxford's debt of £3300 to the Court of Wards.

OUR HUMBLE SUIT is unto my Lord Treasurer, that whereas we are to pay unto her Majesty for the debt of the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford the sum of three thousand three hundred pounds, for the which debt all those lands stand charged which have been bought of the foresaid Earl, most of which lands were leased by the said Earl before they were sold to us, and so the farmers & occupiers of the said leases are also in law to be charged, we, the purchasers, do yield to a voluntary contribution, and do desire that if the farmers will not in like sort contribute, being chargeable both by law & equity, that where such farmers be found, we may have the aid of the honourable Court of Wards to extend those farmers, and thereby to enforce them to join with us in an equality of charge. We also humbly pray that every man's sum due to be paid to her Majesty may be divided into [] parts, & payments at days, for the payment whereof good assurance shall be delivered into the Court. And thereupon we pray that the Earl's bonds may be delivered, and in like sort the counterbonds of the Earl's which are knowledged to the Lord Darcy & Sir William Waldegrave.

Endorsed:

The humble petition of the purchasers touching the debts of the Earl of Oxenford in the Court of Wards to your good Lordship.

Second endorsement:

Earl of Oxford,
The petition of the purchasers

[Earl of Oxenford]
1594.