



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

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1574 Quiet Meadow Way
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Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairman,

Madam Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for your time and attention here today. My name is Steve Patten and I am a proud citizen of Maryland. I run my very small business in Maryland, and I raise my four children here. I am also the Maryland State Director for Convention of States Action.

I have the pleasure of serving as the head of our all-volunteer team. The over 17,000 supporters here in Maryland support this cause because we all agree that there is something very wrong with D.C.. The Federal Government has far exceeded its enumerated Constitutional powers and overall purpose of preventing the concentration of power to a relative handful of institutions and individuals.

I feel certain the Founders and Framers would not recognize the Federal Government of today. Fortunately, they gave us Article V with two ways to amend the governing document of this nation. The First, Amendments can be proposed by the Federal government Congress the ONLY method used in all 27 Amendments; and the second, Amendments can be proposed from outside the Federal government ... by a Convention of representatives from the States.

So, why does our Constitution give the States the power to propose amendments? I think George Mason said it best, and I quote, "Are we so naïve that we believe that a federal government that becomes a tyranny would propose amendments to restrain it's own tyranny?" The Constitution gives you (State Legislators) the power to do what the Federal Government would not impose upon itself ... restraint.

As you heard from my colleagues already, there is no incentive (from either side of the aisle in D.C.) to limit Federal power, to limit terms of office, to limit the insatiable spending. In giving the States the power to propose amendments, the Constitution gives us an instrument that you can wield when that Federal Government is doing things that the majority of the American people disagree with.

Madam Chairman, I'd like to ask the Committee to please recognize but a few of the over 17,000 supporters of our resolution that made the trip here today. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Stephen Patten