

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of - Senate Joint Resolution SJ1 - United States Constitution –  
Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 14, 2023

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Dear Committee Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Michael Rilee. I live in Derwood, Maryland in District 19. I'm a PhD scientist who develops advanced computing technologies for climate science. I also volunteer with Convention of States Action as Maryland's State Director representing the now more than 30,000 supporters across the state.

We're a non-profit constitutional education organization dedicated to helping Marylanders improve our civics skills and build bridges between constituents and their legislators. We are a diverse group that cares deeply about Maryland and the United States.

Our supporters are here to tell you why they believe an Article V Convention of States is necessary at this time. Like you, Mr. Chair, they are motivated by the problems our fellow citizens face, and they strive for constructive discussions about the way forward.

Today, I will focus on the resources we could apply to those problems. Maryland's share of Federal spending is over 113 billion dollars, which is about 20 billion more than our state budget.

How much control do you have over where that 113 billion goes?

Is it solving the important problems we face in Maryland?

Are we getting the value we deserve?

Maryland is home to some of the most highly regarded institutions in the world. We have one of the most educated populations. We Marylanders know best how to apply our citizens' hard-earned resources to our own local issues. But to have that discussion, we need to rebalance our relationship with our Federal Government. An Article V Convention of States provides a well understood, disciplined way for you and your fellow state legislators from across the country to start the discussion.

Let's bring those resources back to Maryland so you, our legislators, can work together to make sure those hard-earned resources go where they're needed.

Only then can we get fair, equitable, and sustainable solutions that truly meet Maryland's needs.

Please pass the resolution out of committee for debate and a vote on the floor.

Sincerely,

Michael Lee Rilee