

Article V Testimony in Favor of HJ0002 – David Hafer

Good afternoon,

My name is Dave Hafer and I am the District 29 Captain for the Convention of States. I represent approximately 1,700 Convention of States supporters in Maryland.

For more than 35 years, I served as a Marine and as a civilian in the Federal Government. I have a lot of experience in the Department of Defense, the CIA, the Department of State, and the Director of National Intelligence.

I have long been concerned over how the Federal Government spends the tax payer's money. It always seems that when budgeting we look to "spend more so we can get more".

As a manager, I would look for ways to spend the taxpayer's money wisely. My proposals to cut funds, programs and positions typically fell on deaf ears. The usual refrain was "what if we need these in the future?" – Spending more to get more.

Every year, we were given "end of the year money". So, we would be directed to take unnecessary overseas trips, for unnecessary purposes to unnecessary locations. This is just one of the many examples of wasteful Federal spending I witnessed during my long career.

Over time it became clear to me that the Federal Government will not restrain itself. Now, the Federal debt is over \$31 trillion. The Federal Government has spent and grown far beyond what our Founders had ever intended. They would be astounded and dismayed at the size and scope of the Federal Government today. However, in their incredible wisdom and foresight, they anticipated that this could happen. They left an escape clause. It is called Article V of the US Constitution. A Convention of States.

Please help us put an end to excessive spending. Americans don't want it and can't afford it. A Convention of States will allow participants to discuss ways to address overspending and debt, which requires discussion by all states. Please support Resolution **SJ1** so it can proceed to the House and Senate Floor for debate so Maryland will have a voice in this process. Thank you