

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of House Joint Resolution HJ0002**, concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

Rules & Executive Nominations Committee

By Cesare Vodopia

My name is Cesare Vodopia and I live in District 13. Our country will turn 247 years old this year. That's just a little over four of my lifetimes. This is still a young country. It is an experiment in self-governance. Because of the growing size and depth of the federal government, I fear we may be in the *late* stages of an *unsuccessful* experiment rather than the early stages of a successful one.

As a civil libertarian, the unconstitutional overreach of the federal government scares me. As a fiscal conservative, the reckless spending scares me. Finally, it scares me to see the federal government unconstitutionally usurping powers that belong to the States. Our founders gave us Article V as a way to bypass the Congress to amend our Constitution, because they knew there would probably come a time when the people would need to constrain the federal government. The three items in this resolution, to be discussed at a national convention, provide a framework for constraint.

I worry about what the future holds for my children and grandchildren and how the dysfunction in Washington is going to affect them. It is my hope that members of this committee vote favorable on this joint resolution so it can be debated on the House floor, and so future generations do not have to live through the demise of this Republic and witness the failure of the American experiment in self-governance.

*The threats we face because of our runaway federal government apply equally to all, whether they lean left or to the right.* This deserves debate and serious consideration.

A Convention of States, to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution, will provide “We the People” the ability to constrain the Federal Government. Please support passing HJ-2 to the floor for debate so the full House has the opportunity to vote up or down on this joint resolution, and so the Maryland Legislature might join other States to utilize the “Article V tool” our Founders gave us to ensure the American Experiment in self-governance is a success. Thank you.

Testimony respectfully submitted by,  
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