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Written Testimony in **SUPPORT of- Senate Bill – SB1073** - Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution - Delegation to the Convention -

To the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Dear Committee Chair Brian Feldman, and the Honorable Committee Members,

I am Paul D. Macri, from District 38A.

There are four steps to the Convention of States process:

- 1) passing the resolution
- 2) determining the rules
- 3) selecting the Commissioners
- 4) and participating in the Convention.

In Maryland, we are at step one, but we are looking at working in parallel with step two... the rules.

People naturally have a fear of the unknown. Supporters and opponents of a convention of states both had questions about the rules that would be put in place **BEFORE** the actual Convention. There are a lot of “what if?” questions. Our leadership team helped draft this bill to answer those questions. The rules of the Delegation to the Convention legislation provide immediate penalties for commissioners that run astray of the meeting intent. This eliminates the worry of a “runaway convention”.

Since Gov Gavin Newsom of California has expressed interest in a Convention of States, we are now involved in a **bi-partisan** solution. Since we have already passed the 50% point for states needed, we have momentum. At this point, it’s not **IF** the resolutions will be passed, it is question of **WHEN**. State #34 triggers **ALL** 50 states to participate in a convention. None of us wants Maryland to be embarrassed by not having the rules ready and not having the Commissioners selected when needed.

As a group, our Maryland team decided to address two concerns. With this legislation we will be able to address incorrect narratives and answer the “what if questions”. And at the same time, we provide rules and a fact-based, step-by-step process. We have boundaries and accountability in place so there is the ability to recall a rouge commissioner and resolve any other problems. Passing the Delegation to the Convention Bill, we remove the fear of the unknown and engage in a productive discussion. This will provide a clear context for the moving forward next year. Thank you.