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Written Testimony in SUPPORT of 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,

My name is Seth Lipko, and I'm from District 32. I have testified for the past several years in support of Maryland's application to an Article V Convention of States, and this year, I am advocating for SB1073. My reason for this is that I want our state to be ready, for whenever an Article V Convention occurs, whether it's for the one that I have supported in the past, to limit the federal government's size, scope, and power, or any other.

As we've seen recently, Congress has a hard time picking a Speaker of the House. The American people know we can't rely on them to solve the more difficult problems. That is why we in Maryland have been coming to you. And while dissatisfaction is a great motivator, I recognize that doesn't solve problems. We want to be sure that we have certainty in the path we take to solve these problems.

And that is where this bill comes in to play. It defines Maryland's "rules of engagement" for a convention. Here are several important processes outlined in this bill:

- Establishes an oversight committee in the General Assembly
- Defines the commissioner selection process and their personal qualifications
- Specifies the number of commissioners that would make up Maryland's delegation
- Describes how the General Assembly holds those individuals accountable to the will of the state, and provisions a recall process for them
- Ensures the bill of rights and civil rights amendments are off limits to any changes.
- Defines how the commissioners organize at the convention, such as how they select a chairperson and how they vote

This bill is vital to be prepared for the inevitable. Whether Maryland itself holds Article V applications or not, once 34 states agree to meet, all 50 states will be invited. When this happens, I want to be proud that our state is ready to rise to the occasion and show that we care enough about our nation to be ready to solve the problems that Congress will not. I urge you to support the full passage of this bill. Thank you.