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Written Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill HB 1202
Amendments Convention Called Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution
Delegation to the Convention

To the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Dear Committee Chair Anne Healey and the Honorable Committee Members,

Good morning, 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 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 drafted a resolution called the Model Commissioners Resolution to answer those questions. The rules of the model commissioner legislation provide immediate penalties for commissioners who go 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 turned the corner and already passed the 50% point for states needed, we have momentum. And as others have said, it’s not if it is when. State #34 triggers ALL 50 states. 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 kill two birds with one stone. We silenced the false narratives and answered the “what if questions.” And at the same time, we provided rules and a fact-based, step-by-step process. We have boundaries and punishments so that we can recall a rouge commissioner. By passing the Model Commissioners Resolution, we remove the fear of the unknown and engage in a productive discussion. This will provide a clear context for the original resolution for next year. Thank you.