

Written Testimony – SUPPORT SB 517

Bill: SB 517

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie Holly, and I am a resident of District 4. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB 517.

In prior sessions, much of the discussion before this body has focused on whether Maryland should apply for a Convention under Article V of the United States Constitution. SB 517 addresses a different and equally important question - **when such a Convention is called, how will Maryland structure, direct, and hold accountable the commissioners it appoints?**

Article V of the United States Constitution provides that when two-thirds of the states apply, Congress shall call a Convention for proposing amendments. When that constitutional threshold is met, Maryland will appoint commissioners to represent our state. That responsibility will rest with the General Assembly.

It is reasonable to ask what safeguards would be in place. SB 517 answers that question clearly and responsibly.

This legislation establishes:

- Defined qualifications for commissioners
- A transparent appointment process
- Explicit limits on commissioners' authority
- Binding subject-matter constraints
- Reporting and transparency requirements
- Compensation standards
- A clear removal process for any commissioner who exceeds the authority granted

In short, **SB 517 ensures that Maryland retains full legislative oversight and control over its delegation.**

Importantly, this bill does not call for a Convention. It does not broaden the scope of one. It does not endorse any specific amendment.

What it does is establish guardrails.

When a Convention is convened, Maryland should participate with clarity, discipline, and accountability—not uncertainty. **Preparing a framework in advance is an act of**

responsible governance. It is stewardship of our constitutional role, not partisanship.

SB 517 affirms the authority of the General Assembly, protects Maryland's voice, and ensures our state is prepared to act responsibly within the constitutional framework established by Article V.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 517.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Holly
Mount Airy, Maryland
District 4