

Greeting: Sen. Garth D. Everett, Chair; Sen. Kevin J. Boyle, Democratic Chair; and Members of the House State Government Committee:

Subject: Written Testimony against HR206

Please vote "NO" in opposition to HR206, or any other resolution that applies to Congress for an Article V convention, for any reason! If you have never looked into this in depth, a convention might sound like a good idea and a viable solution to our problems with the Federal government, but upon further examination, you will find that it is not only the wrong solution, but a dangerous one.

1) **It is unnecessary.** Our problems stem from the fact that the Constitution is being ignored, not any flaws within it. Amending a constitution that is being ignored and is not being enforced is futile. If the American people have not determined how to enforce the tenth amendment, they will not know how to enforce new amendments either. The Article V convention method for proposing amendments was never intended to be used to prevent usurpation of power by the Federal government. Both methods were intended to be used to correct constitutional error. (ref. The Federalist #49)

2) **It is risky.** Our founding document, the Declaration of Independence proclaims the right of the sovereign people "to alter or abolish" their form of government whenever it becomes destructive of their rights, rather than being the protector of them. An article V convention, **by whatever name it is called**, is a constitutional convention (ref. Blacks Law dictionary) and is made up of delegates who represent the sovereign people. Once it convenes, neither Congress nor the states can control what happens at a constitutional convention. The delegates could even choose to lower the bar or eliminate the requirements for state ratification of amendments. It should be evident to anyone paying attention to politics today, that there is no limit to what extreme measures the delegates would propose. What compromises would be made in order to be able to consider the convention a success? But Congress will have far more influence on it than the states will. Once 34 states have applied, Congress has the power to "call" it. They will use that power to retain as much control as possible, in spite of what the states demand. At this point, if a state like Pennsylvania chooses not to attend because its demands have been ignored, it will have no say in what happens at the convention (like Rhode Island did in 1787) and will have to live with the results of whatever changes the delegates of the other states in attendance choose to make. States that aren't challenging federal usurpation of power now, will not be able to challenge the authority of a superior body, like a constitutional convention. And again, a state that has not discovered the will or the means to enforce the current Constitution, will not be able to enforce new amendments anyway.

A constitutional convention is simply the wrong solution to the problems we have today and would be destructive, rather than beneficial.

Please vote "NO" on any resolutions calling for an Article V convention, including HR206, HR457, HR444 and SR192.

Sincerely,  
Wayne Christopher  
Grand Bay, AL 36541  
251-895-7799