

**Written Testimony in Opposition to Ohio SJR1 (Convention of States Project)  
September 12, 2017**

Sen. Coley, Chair; Sen. Uecker, Vice Chair; Sen. Schiavoni, Ranking Minority Member; and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

My name is Judi Caler, and I am President of Citizens Against an Article V Convention. I appreciate your accepting my written testimony in opposition to SJR1.

You are not being told the truth by the “Convention of States” lobby (COS). An Article V convention cannot be limited to one subject/s or amendment/s. That’s because Delegates to an Article V convention would have more power than State Legislatures or Congress; and cannot be limited by the state application or state and federal law.

Delegates to the federal convention would be direct Representatives of “We the People” and, as such, have the inherent right “to alter or to abolish” our “Form of Government,” as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, paragraph 2. And we don’t know who those Delegates would be or who would select them!

The convention lobby will tell you they are not asking for a “constitutional” convention, but rather a “convention of states” or an “amendments” convention. And former U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, recently added to the COS payroll, has gone so far as to soft-pedal the convention on Red Eye Radio by calling it “just a suggestion convention”! They are playing with words, and they are risking our Constitution.

They will tell you they know what the rules will be at such a convention because of custom. There are no customs, as there has never been an Article V convention. Proponents cite regional gatherings of a few states on common topics as “custom.”

Proof that there are no convention rules is that some states are sending delegates to [Phoenix this week](#) to create the rules for such a convention; but these rules will have the force of suggestion only; delegates to a real Article V convention can do whatever they want.

However, a precedent **was** set in 1787 when the “amendments” convention called by the Continental Congress “[for the sole and express purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation](#)” (our first Constitution) resulted in a new Constitution with an easier mode of ratification for that new Constitution (our current Constitution).

More importantly, there is nothing wrong with the Constitution we have! The problem is that it isn’t being enforced. To **change** the Constitution because the federal government isn’t **following** the Constitution makes no sense.

And why would a federal government that ignores the Constitution as now written, obey an amended Constitution?

As I explained in [THIS ARTICLE](#), even Mark Meckler, President of COS admitted on national radio that there is no way to stop the federal government from ignoring amendments proposed by an Article V convention!

[BRILLIANT MEN](#) have warned that Delegates to an Article V convention can't be controlled. **James Madison, Father of our Constitution**, said in his Nov. 2, 1788 letter to [Turberville](#) that he "trembled" at the prospect of a second convention. We are fools if we don't take heed of their warnings!

We are dangerously close to Congress calling an Article V Convention. This is your opportunity to uphold your Oath to support our Constitution. Please **VOTE NO on SJR1**.

Thank you for your consideration.

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