

To: Rep. Wiggam, Chair; Rep. John, Vice Chair; Rep. Kelly, Ranking Member; and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

You are now considering the Convention of States petitions to call an Article V convention. This should be strongly opposed. I initially thought this was a good idea. I listened to their arguments but then I examined their logic and the history of our founding. This led me to realize that their reasoning was highly flawed and that our history demonstrates clearly that no control over a convention by the states is possible.

Their logic: they say that the existing government is operating outside of the enumerated powers granted to the central government by the people, true! What term would you use to describe people who act lawlessly? Why would new amendments be obeyed then? Only if they legitimize what is currently being done.

The veracity of their claims: they argue that the states can control the process and select the delegates, **false!** The Declaration of Independence states; *“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government.”* Here is a compendium of opinions demonstrating that there is no control. Article V does not specify who selects delegates but Article I §8 last clause does:

“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

Their approach: they are combining all A5C applications going back to 1861 whether single topic or multiple topic. Many of these applications have been rescinded by their respective states. How can they be presented as current?

Finally many on both sides of the political isle oppose this effort as well. Please see these comments by Common Cause, David Super and Chief Justice Warren Burger as well as our first Chief Justice John Jay and the recent Justice Antonin Scalia.

I trust that this analysis will lead you, as it has done me, to oppose all petitions calling for an Article V convention.

Thank you for defending our republican form of government as defined in the existing US Constitution!

Respectfully,
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