

We are a divided nation. Polarized to be precise. We agree on very little. Taxation . . . Women's Rights . . . Civil Rights . . . Education . . . the existence of climate change – much less what to do about it . . . COVID – does it exist – much less how to scientifically manage and treat it . . . many challenge the separation of church and state . . . January 6 . . . dark money . . . there are even some among us that think Vladimir Putin is a “good guy!” The vitriol and lack of respect demonstrated by our leaders is abhorrent. Our representatives are required to vote along party lines otherwise they will receive a censure from their state party. Our leaders attempt to sway state election officials. Even local election officials and their families at best are harassed and at worst threatened by their fellow citizens. Yes, we have met the enemy – and it is us.

The Constitution and Bill of Rights are living documents. Our forefathers wisely gave us the tools to modify the Constitution via amendments while maintaining the structure and safety of our Constitution, current democratic system, and values. Once a constitutional convention convenes our current democratic system is dissolved. There is no structure or guidance on how to rebuild a constitution/government. There is no guarantee that the new government will be a democracy. Will those with the largest microphones who spread vitriol and fear, those who place their own immediate interests and gratifications first, be the authors of this important document? Will we be willing to talk among ourselves, come with a compromise and work out a more insightful, futuristic constitution than the one we rely on today? Who among us has the intelligence, foresight, and compassion to author a better constitution? I do not see that person(s) on either side in government nor in industry.

It is time to quit governing by planned party obstruction. Our elected officials need to start talking and come to compromise for the benefit of all citizens – not just a chosen few. Our Constitution has been our guiding document for 235 years. It has survived the expansion of our country from 13 states to 50 states, a civil war and the abolishment of slavery, women's right to vote and 2 world wars. Our Constitution and democracy have been a guiding light for other countries and peoples. Our forefathers gave us amendments Witness form and Testimony - Opposition to HJR 1 - Constitutional Convention to enhance the Constitution without destroying our Constitution – let's have the wisdom to use those tools. Say no to a constitutional convention.

