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Written Testimony Against HJR 2
March 10, 2026

Rep. Thomas Hall, Chair; Rep. Ron Ferguson, Vice Chair; Rep. Latyna Humphrey, Ranking Member; and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

The Purpose of the Convention Method of Article V

Convention of States (COS) praises their hero, Framer George Mason, for having given us the convention method of Article V. They paraphrase Mason countless times, as having said, at the constitutional convention of 1787, quote:

> "Are we so naïve as to believe that a federal gov't that becomes a tyranny, will ever propose amendments to restrain its own tyranny"?

But that quote can be attributed to Mark Meckler, not George Mason! No Framer ever believed that the purpose of an Article V convention was to propose amendments to rein in federal tyranny.

The Convention of States made it up! They misconstrue Mason's words from Sept. 15, 1787, to justify triggering an Article V convention.

Mason's point was that if **a provision of the Constitution—NOT the Government—**should prove to be oppressive, the people should have the right to propose amendments, ***if Congress refuses to propose them***.

If you read George Mason's real quotes in the context of what he said on June 11 of that same year, you'll see that the Article V process was meant to be used when the abuse was the fault of the Constitution—in order to fix **defects** in the Constitution.

No one can rein in the federal gov't with an Amendment. It's the wrong tool, because you can't take away powers from Congress that were never granted to Congress by the Constitution in the first place. What would an Amendment to further limit the federal government say—quote, "And we really mean it this time!"?

The Framers gave us a Constitution which limits Congress to few and defined powers–mostly in Art. I, Sec. 8. And they gave us the 10th Amendment that gives any powers not enumerated in the Constitution to the States or to the People.

Our problem isn't the **language** of the Constitution. Our problem is a People problem—like corrupt politicians; or allowing federal money to be used for unconstitutional purposes.

And if those who don't understand the Constitution start tampering with our Constitution at a convention, you can be sure we'll lose our Constitution.

I urge you to Vote NO on HJR 2. Don't fix what isn't broken.