

Chairwoman Roegner and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joe Wolverton, and I appear before you today not only as a constitutional attorney and lecturer, but as someone who has spent over two decades educating Americans about the original intent, meaning, and enduring value of the United States Constitution. I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SJR 3, a resolution calling for a dangerous and ill-defined Article V Convention of States.

While I recognize and share the frustrations of many Americans over federal overreach, I cannot support any effort that gambles with the very document that secures our liberties.

Let me be clear: an Article V Convention of States is not a guaranteed path to reform; it is a potential path to ruin. No matter how carefully crafted the call may be, there exists no historical or constitutional mechanism to enforce limits once a convention is convened. The claim that states can restrict the agenda of such a convention is not grounded in constitutional text or precedent—it is wishful thinking at best and dangerous deception at worst.

History offers sobering clarity. The 1787 Constitutional Convention was convened under the mandate to amend the Articles of Confederation. What emerged instead was a wholesale replacement of that governing framework. Today's climate—polarized, litigious, and teeming with corporate and ideological interests—is even more volatile. Do we truly believe such a convention would be guided by wisdom, virtue, and constitutional fidelity? Or will it be hijacked by those seeking to gut the Bill of Rights or enshrine radical reforms into permanent law?

Many of the reforms Convention of States advocates seek—balanced budgets, term limits, and restraints on federal agencies—can be achieved without altering the Constitution. State legislatures already possess powerful tools under the Tenth Amendment and the principles of nullification to resist unconstitutional federal actions. The founders gave us these mechanisms for peaceful, constitutional resistance to tyranny.

The Constitution is not broken. Our commitment to upholding it is.

I urge this committee not to open the doors to a constitutional unknown. SJR 3, if passed, would be an invitation to unelected delegates, interest groups, and billionaire-backed organizations to tinker with the very document that restrains government and secures our God-given rights.

Please do not roll the dice with the foundation of our Republic. Reject SJR 3 and stand instead for state-based solutions, constitutional fidelity, and the principles our Founders bequeathed to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Constitutional Attorney