



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

Michael Lee Rilee
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Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

Madam Chairman:

I am Michael Rilee and I live in Derwood, Maryland. I am a small business owner and federal contractor. I first came to Maryland in 1996 to work at the cutting edge of science and technology in the space program. I raised my family in Prince George's County and Montgomery County and I now volunteer for Convention of States Action Maryland as the District 19 Captain and State Communications Coordinator.

Thank you for taking on the responsibility and the difficulties of governing and working to make things better in Maryland.

Today, I ask you to think about what you will need to do as leaders in Maryland in the coming rebalancing of Federal and State responsibilities. There's a saying in economics that things that can't continue eventually stop. The federal government is bankrupt, spending money we don't have, borrowing more and more without any plan to pay it back. What is Maryland going to do in such a fiscally deteriorating federal situation?

With the Texas freeze and California wildfires, we see finger pointing and failures from misdirected energy investments arising from perverse interactions between the state and federal government. Solutions dreamed up for California and Texas don't even work there, so why should we let the federal government impose them on us here in Maryland? And as legislators, I'm sure you are aware of the many federal impositions on your work.

But for lack of time, I could go into health, public safety, education, and information monopolies. We have smart, dedicated, innovative people in Maryland. We mustn't let the federal government force solutions on us that don't even work elsewhere.

If you have listened to the people across the country over the past year, you realize that these sentiments are becoming more widespread. Federal government is out of balance and not meeting our needs. The current situation cannot continue, so the question for you as Maryland's leaders is how to manage the coming change. Will we carve out some flexibility for Maryland, or will DC dictate our choices?

Article V of the US Constitution guarantees Maryland an equal voice at the table. For the equity of Marylanders, we need to be part of that discussion. I ask that you, our Delegates, use the Article V guarantee and make sure your voice is heard loud and clear when the inevitable changes come. I am certain Texas, California, and New York will.

I ask that you support HJ6 being forwarded from the committee for consideration by the full House.

Sincerely,

Michael Lee Rilee
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