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## CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

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March 3, 2021

3122 Stephanies Lane  
Huntingtown, MD 20639

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

Dear Madam Chairman,

I am a proud American veteran and have been proud to call myself a Maryland resident since the United States Air Force transferred me here over 13 years ago. I have devoted almost 25 years of my life to serving my country in the US Air Force, both as an enlisted aircraft mechanic, and as an Officer and Pilot. I have sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States at least 10 times while in the Air Force. Although I am now retired and a civilian, I will swear to that oath until the day I die.

I retired from Andrews AFB as a Lieutenant Colonel where I culminated my flying career piloting Vice President Biden home to Delaware, Speaker Nancy Pelosi home to San Francisco, and Secretary Hillary Clinton home to New York, just to name a few. As a cargo pilot in the 1990s and early 2000s, it was not uncommon for me to be tasked to transport Presidential, Vice Presidential and First-Lady limousines around the world to facilitate their ground transportation. On one such mission I flew to Africa in 1998, the newspapers reported that American taxpayers paid over \$80 million dollars in taxpayer dollars for President Clinton to “spread democracy” throughout Africa. On another mission in 2000 to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to support Vice President Dick Cheney, I transported civilian Humvees and specially trained secret service agents to support Vice President Cheney’s fishing expedition on the Snake River. This was another boondoggle that no doubt cost millions to American taxpayers.

Since those days in the 1990s, US Government deficit spending has grown massively as our debt piles higher year after year. Americans watch helplessly as those we elect to Congress tell us they have our backs as they allocate hundreds of billions to special interests while the benefit to the average American is miniscule. The quality of public education and transportation infrastructure has been in decline for decades while spending on special interests and government bureaucracy grows exponentially, causing taxes and government induced inflation to squeeze the average citizen. Americans have become outraged.

Flagrant examples of special interest pork are spread throughout the massive December 2020

\$2.3 trillion combined spending and COVID relief package. Millions of Americans looked on in disgust as the US Congress approved \$15 million in taxpayer money for the nation of Pakistan's "gender programs." Although \$15 million dollars are "pennies" when looking at the entire package, most Americans do not see it that way. Both the size of the package itself and the money spent on Pakistan are an insult to the average American and it illustrates how our Congress cannot be trusted as good stewards of our tax dollars. The US Congress has come to represent and cater to the growing Washington establishment and not the American people. And the frustrating aspect of this fact is that both political parties participate in this reprehensible greed and lack of discipline.

In addition to an elected Congress destroying the US economy, an unelected US Central Bank has taken a primary role in the destruction of free market capitalism. The US Federal Reserve's monetary policy goes hand-in-hand with our insanely irresponsible fiscal policy and it appears to have one goal and one goal only – inflate the US economy out of the insurmountable \$30 trillion dollars of debt given to the American people by Congress. Congressional hearings with the Fed Chairman are laughable as they are filled with "lies, damned lies, and statistics," in the words of Mark Twain.

The Fed plays its part in the US Government's shell game by monetizing Federal debt through the purchase the US Treasuries. Quantitative Easing as it was named when it began in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, has brought the Fed's balance sheet from under a trillion dollars to around \$7.4 trillion today. Since COVID began about a year ago, its balance sheet has almost doubled. With twice as many dollars in the system, the dollar is being devalued which is leading to a higher cost of living for the average American.

Currently, the Fed is holding up the market for US Treasuries. There are no other buyers and when the Fed stops printing dollars to buy the Treasuries, interest rates on US Treasuries will skyrocket and stock markets across the planet will tank. As an example, if interest rates were to increase to just 5 percent, debt service on the US debt of \$30 trillion will increase to 50 percent of our annual budget and crowd out spending on national defense and our social safety net. A decade ago, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen called our national debt "the number one threat to our national security. Yet here we are 10 years later having taken no steps to shore up the finances of the US government. Long considered the safest place in the world to park your money, it is painfully obvious that the US Dollar's days as the world's reserve currency are numbered.

For my entire adult life, I have watched our federal government spend more money than it takes in. Up until about 15 years ago, our elected members of Congress actually debated the merits of funding on one program versus another and there existed the appearance that government spending benefited Americans in some way, shape or form. Nowadays, these bills are created in the dead of night where most Congressional members have less than 24 hours to digest thousands of pages that outline the egregious levels of pork spending.

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The Congressional leadership is now creating spending bills to push an overall political agenda with little input from the rank and file members let alone the opposite party. There is a total disregard for the wants and needs of the American people and the majority of Americans, whether you are a Republican or a Democrat have lost all faith that their tax dollars are being spent responsibly.

The annual deficit has grown to insane levels and the overall debt will burden future generations of our American citizens for decades. It is time to put restraints on the Federal Government's complete inability to responsibly manage the finances of the United States of America. It is time to convene a Convention of States to amend the US Constitution in this regard. It is time for the Maryland General Assembly to side with the American citizen and vote for the passage of HJ6.

Thank you.

Michael Colburn

District Captain, MD-27

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