



## CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

February 27, 2021

21636 Kelso Dr  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
301-991-7799

Dear Madam Chairwoman,

I am Rick Bibbee, a proud graduate of the Bi-Centennial Class of 1976, of The Parkersburg South High School Patriots. I have been a resident in Washington County, Maryland since 1991, and a homeowner in Leitersburg, Maryland since 1996. My family traces its roots back to 1620, coming ashore here in the New World from a Ship Called "The Swan", on the eastern Shore near Dorchester.

I am not sure why we left or were kicked out of England, but I know that the roots of my family tree were always expanding westward to the Frontier and uncertain futures. Family members fought and were awarded medals in the Civil War, and several generations are buried in Leachtown, WV.

I am a self-employed businessman living in the Crossroads of America here in Washington County, seeing reminders everywhere as to how our little Hub City played a part in changing the very fabric of our country.

It is with that in mind, that today I rise to address those that would object to an Article V, Convention of States being held.

I believe that when the elected voices of the people lose touch with their constituents, they must be reminded where exactly their power comes from. They are elected to represent Us/We/Me, the everyday American that relies on their voice to keep and maintain the freedoms and liberties that we have earned from the sacrifices of our ancestors.

Some will say that if we open an Article V Convention of States that we are unleashing a Pandora's Box upon the Country that will destroy everything that has long been held sacred. I stand against that claim, believing that small corrections in our current course can and will correct the future navigation of our Great Country, from the errors of many selfish judgements and from the years of stalemated partisanship.

If I still believed in my heart of hearts, that our elected United States House members and Senators would make these changes on their own, I would not be here today. No longer does governing include bringing people together to work in a synergistic collaboration. Our Government in DC, is working in a vacuum and ignoring the thoughts and wishes provided by those they represent across our great country. The formula of  $1+1=3$ , that used to represent a magical synergy of yielding greater results by working together with the people, has now become a deplorable parody.

Yet,  $1+1=3$  is my personal mantra, a symbolic way of meaning people working together for the greater good of all, instead of being told what Washington decrees is for my greater good.

That is not governing, it is ruling.

Page 2 Rick Bibbee

Not having term limits is an example of why I feel this way. Legislators seem to have no concept of what it is like to live under the rules and laws that they create, because they are so far removed from the day to-day life in America. They don't believe they have to follow the same rules we do. When they start passing laws that benefit themselves and not of those they represent, the wedge between "us and them" is driven deeper. As much as any 20, 30 or 40-year elected legislator will try to deny it, the proof is painfully clear for the average person to see.

Look at our country right now, divided and disillusioned. Even a tribal Council of Elders knows when it is time to hand the peace pipe to the young braves. Yes, the Elders still have influence over the youth, but they recognize the need to allow succeeding generations to rule themselves, while at the same time protecting their traditions and the moral values of their tribe.

In the words of George Washington , as he warned us " to frown indignantly upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties that now link together its various parts."

This passage was elicited from the Eulogy of Charles Carroll in 1834. Charles Carroll was from Maryland, and the last to die of the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The predominant theme throughout his Eulogy is of Union. The final three lines of the Eulogy reads:

"God in his Mercy forbid that more should be required of us. But if the extremity must come, the voice from the tombs will tell us, that UNION IS OUR COUNTRY."

As a Patriot since 1976, who just this year found a need for my voice to be heard, I urge you to join myself and the Convention of States , in implementing the steps for Maryland to join the bi-partisan effort laid out clearly in Article V by the framers. Our country right now needs Me & You to join together, to make course corrections for our future.

The call was answered in 1776 by 56 regular Citizens, with an average age of 45, of which 2 of those were self-educated men, one a Cobbler and one a Carpenter. None of 56 were what could be called a "Statesman", yet they found the courage to believe in something bigger than themselves.

When they pledged their lives, and fortunes and sacred honour to abide the issue of their country's fortune. They truly did ! Because many of these 56 lost not only their reputations, and their fortunes but they also lost their lives when they took this visionary stand for our Country's future. They created the Country that We live in today. We owe the same to our future generations to make the adjustments needed now to allow this great experiment in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, to live on forever.

1 +1 = 3, it's not what I do, nor what you do, but when we do it together, WE "can change the World".

Thank you for any and all considerations that you are able to give to my personal words and my written testimony that I have provided to you here today.

Sincerely,

Rick Bibbee  
rick@woodsetter.com