



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 231		DATE: 5/5/2021	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 5/5/2021 2:00 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I Support The Concept of Delegates. However, I feel that this position shall NOT be Appointment by the Members of the General Assembly and shall be Elected through an Election on the Ballot in each of our State's Eight (8) Congressional Districts. Please make this Amendment



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRETT STERLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-425-3833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CONVENTION OF STATES ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2853 EAST LAMONTA DRIVE			
CITY: SPRINGFIELD		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65804
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 5/5/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEITH CARMICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 5/5/2021 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-456-1954	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER POLITICAL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2818 SUTTON BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL: Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 5/4/2021 5:49 PM	
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It is the position of the Sierra Club to oppose any attempt to call an Article V Constitutional Convention in the United States. We therefore oppose Senate Bill 231. Throughout the 230-year history of the U.S. Constitution, an Article V convention has never been called. The unknowns surrounding a constitutional convention pose an unacceptable risk, particularly in the current polarized political climate. The risks are as follows:

THREAT OF A RUNAWAY CONVENTION: There is nothing in the Constitution to prevent a constitutional convention from being expanded in scope to issues not raised in convention calls passed by the state legislatures, and therefore could lead to a runaway convention.

INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS: An Article V convention would open the Constitution to revisions at a time of extreme gerrymandering and polarization amid unlimited political spending. It could allow special interests and the wealthiest to re-write the rules governing our system of government.

LACK OF CONVENTION RULES: There are no rules governing constitutional conventions. A convention would be an unpredictable Pandora's Box; the last one, in 1787, resulted in a brand-new Constitution. We risk possibility that the process would be used to undo hard-won civil rights, civil liberties advances and environmental protections and undermine basic rights extended throughout history.

THREAT OF LEGAL DISPUTES: No judicial, legislative, or executive body would have clear authority to settle disputes about a convention, opening the process to chaos and protracted legal battles that would threaten the functioning of our democracy and economy.

APPLICATION PROCESS UNCERTAINTY: There is no clear process on how Congress or any other governmental body would count and add up Article V applications, or if Congress and the states could restrain the convention's mandate based on those applications.

UNCERTAIN RATIFICATION PROCESS: A convention could try to re-define the ratification process (which currently requires 38 states to approve any new amendments) to make it easier to pass new amendments, including those considered at the convention. This happened in 1787, when the convention changed the threshold necessary for ratification.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RON CALZONE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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