



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 823</b>		DATE: <b>3/29/2023</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Government Efficiency and Downsizing</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRETT STERLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>417-425-3833</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CONVENTION OF STATES ACTION</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE DIRECTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2853 E. LAMONTA DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>SPRINGFIELD</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65804</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2023 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROSENDO (MARTY) MARTINEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CONVENTION OF STATE ACTION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>22229 CLARK HOLLOW LANE</b>		
CITY: <b>WARRENTON</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63383</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2023 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/29/2023 11:40 PM</b>
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**I am Opposed to this Bill. I feel that in the Best-Interest of Missourians and the Convention that these Delegates shall be Elected Missourians on the Ballot and NOT a "Rubber-Stamped Slate."**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MICHAEL BERG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-644-1011</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER</b>		TITLE: <b>POLITICAL DIRECTOR MISSOURI SIERRA CLUB</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>PO BOX 432010</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63143</b>
EMAIL: <b>Michael.Berg@sierraclub.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/27/2023 3:24 PM</b>	

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

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 House Bill 823. Throughout the 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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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN GIBSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Onesuegibson@protonmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/25/2023 11:34 AM</b>
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**Absolutely not.**