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Date: 1/23/2016 10:27:52 AM
Subject: 6000+ Voices

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6000+ Voices

Dear Friends:

While the contentious presidential season is in full bloom, a revolution of another sort is reaching critical mass. 600,000 Americans nationwide have volunteered to SAVE AMERICA by calling on state legislatures to vote in favor of an Article V Convention of States (COS). That convention would propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution to limit the power of our bloated federal government and shift many controls back to the States and citizens where they belong.

6,000+ South Carolinians Speak Up

The voices of 6,000+ South Carolinians were heard at the Statehouse this week when Representatives and Senators were delivered petitions from their constituents requesting they vote in favor of South Carolina joining four other states that have already approved the Article V COS Project resolution.

A highlight of the week was a visit to the Statehouse by retired U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK). Sen. Coburn, a champion in this campaign to rein-in the federal government, led the charge in explaining to legislative leaders, Representatives and Senators the absolute imperative for state legislators to use their rightful and legal authority in restraining the out-of-control federal government. Based on his experience as both a Congressman and then a Senator, Coburn knows that the federal government will never limit itself and the solution rests solely with state legislators - a power given them by our Nation's Founders in the Constitution. Following his visit several more legislators became cosponsors of the House and Senate legislation.

(Earlier this week, the Aiken Standard reported on my efforts as the primary House sponsor of the House legislation - [H.3177](#) - seeking a Convention of States: [Aiken Standard article](#))

Endorsements Coming Fast

This past Sunday SC Congressman Jeff Duncan gave a full throttle endorsement to the Article V initiative in his address to the S.C. Tea Party convention saying, "At this time in our Nation's history, I believe our only meaningful legal recourse for the ongoing abuses of power in Washington, D.C. is to use Article V."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent shockwaves through the country and made the establishment in D.C. very nervous, announcing [his support for Convention of States](#). Gov. Abbott said, "The cure will not come from Washington, D.C. It must come from the states!"

The growing cacophony of prominent Americans supporting Article V COS includes: Sen. Marco Rubio, Mike Huckabee, Bobby Jindal, Sarah Palin, Mark Levin, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and numerous renowned Constitutional scholars.

Article V COS by the Numbers

34 states this year will file legislation calling for an Article V COS.

4 states have passed the Article V Application: Florida, Georgia, Arkansas & Alaska.

12 states have already passed COS in either the House or Senate.

34 states must pass COS legislation then Congress is required to call a Convention of the States.

38 states must approve any proposed Constitutional amendment before it becomes law.

13 states have veto power to stop any proposed amendment.

Want to know more about COS? Check out [FAQ](#).

The COS Opposition

A small faction led by Phyllis Schlafly and the John Birch Society oppose COS. Their arguments are weak and their fears are unfounded. Here's a response to Mrs. Schlafly's letter she sent to legislators recently: [An open letter to the anti-COS group](#).

SC Legislative Prayer Caucus Launched

GOD is in control, not man nor politicians! At the Statehouse Wednesday, more than 60 Representatives, Senators and State Constitutional Officers officially launched the SC Legislative Prayer Caucus. We individually signed a Resolution acknowledging GOD's greatness. HIS will be done.

Legislative Prayer Caucus

Farm Aid for Flood Victims

I have heard from many victims of the October flood, particularly farmers who in some instances saw their entire crops disintegrate and fields ruined by standing flood waters. Agriculture represents one of the largest industries in South Carolina and if you know a farmer, you may know that one year with no yield can be the difference between having the resources to plant again next year or closing down.

This week I joined 65 other Representatives in sponsoring bi-partisan legislation ([H.4717](#)) calling for the establishment of a farm aid fund to assist farmers whose land and crops were severely damaged in the October floods. The total loss of crops is estimated to be at nearly \$400 million with crop insurance covering only about a third of that amount. This legislation would establish a grant program to aid farmers.

Roads: Confirmation of What We Each Know

The "[State of SCDOT](#)" annual report was released this week overviewing the status of SC's

transportation network. The overall assessment:

- Most South Carolinians are riding on poor pavements.
- Most bridges are in good condition, but there are high-risk areas that need to be addressed.
- Day-to-Day maintenance is graded a "D."
- Congestion is increasing and will impact SC's economic competitiveness.

State of the State

Gov. Nikki Haley delivered her annual State of the State address Wednesday evening. My Republican colleagues and I were happy to hear the governor's support for many of our priorities such as education reform, infrastructure improvements and ethics reform. Following Gov. Haley's address, I applauded her heartfelt speech in my interview with ETV. I was particularly pleased she endorsed the K-12 school transformation plan that has been crafted over the last six months by a House Legislative Task Force.

I'm Available

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. If you need help navigating state government, or have any thoughts or concerns about what we are doing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In your Service,

Bill Taylor

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Newsletter not paid for by
taxpayer funds.

Photo of the Week

Sen. Tom Young & I welcomed Aiken County United Way officials to the Statehouse this week. The UW team included John Lindsay, Sharon Rodgers, Candice Moyer and Bill Johnson.

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