



PHOENIX CORRESPONDENCE COMMISSION
FEDERALISM AT WORK

“The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they have to act like it.”

Chief Justice John Roberts

Executive Committee

Ken Ivory
President
(State Representative, UT)

December 11, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

David Guldenschuh
Secretary
(Delegate, GA)

Chairman Arrington, Ranking Member Boyle, and Members of the House Budget Committee:

Jerry Hertaus
Treasurer
(State Representative, MN, retd.)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. I am W. Bruce Lee, the executive officer for the Phoenix Correspondence Commission (PCC) – a 50-state government body created by the states in 2017 for joint coordination with Congress and to administer all things related to an Article V amending convention. It is an honor to introduce the PCC.

Mark Lepak
Executive Member
(State Representative, OK)

In simple terms, when Congress receives the appropriate 34 states resolutions for an Article V amending convention and fulfills its administrative responsibility to call for an amending convention of states to propose one or more amendments to the Constitution, the PCC is the state body to implement and administer the convention to a successful conclusion.

Rex Rice
Executive Member
(State Senator, SC)

The PCC is the government entity to facilitate communication among the states and between the states and Congress. It is also a nonpartisan entity since the issues facing our nation are structural and not partisan in nature.

Jim Stalzer
Executive Member
(State Senator, SD)

The PCC’s purpose is to serve and assist the state legislatures. Among its services the PCC provides a forum of correspondence and communication between the states, Congress, and the people; and it makes recommendations to Congress on all federalism matters, including the use of Article V. Our goal is to maintain the delicate governing balance between the federal government and the States.

In terms of Article V, the PCC (1) monitors all Article V activity; (2) educates state leaders about the history and application of Article V; (3) serves as repository of information and assistance for the States on all things pertaining to Article V; and (4) facilitates the States in the convening and administration of any Article V convention in a constitutionally responsible manner.

In terms of HCR 24, national fiscal responsibility is essential to state fiscal responsibility. There is bipartisan agreement that our national debt has become a

W. Bruce Lee, Executive Director

Bruce.Lee@Phoenix-Correspondence-Commission.gov



national security threat. Ever-increasing interest payments throttle economic growth and imperil social safety net programs, both of which hit our most vulnerable citizens first and hardest. But no matter which party has been in the majority, Congress has been unable to exercise any restraint on its spending for many years.

I also bring two urgent action requests to your attention.

It has come to our attention from very credible sources that the States in aggregate have submitted more than the 34 required state call resolutions (either plenary or specific to a fiscal responsibility/balanced budget amendment) to Congress to hold an Article V amending convention of the states as early as 1979, but that Congress has failed to call that convention as required in Article V of the US Constitution.

Therefore, as there is good reason to believe, either intentionally or unintentionally, Congress has thwarted the will of the States and therefore of the People.

We respectfully request that Congress immediately confirm their receipt of state call resolutions and, if the 34-state minimum threshold has ever been achieved, to call for such an amending convention.

We also request that you, individually and collectively, resolve any questions regarding the convention by working in concert with the Phoenix Correspondence Commission — which as I mentioned is the specific government body created by the States to work directly with Congress precisely on these and other such matters.

Please direct your replies and correspondence to Executive Director, W. Bruce Lee, at PO Box 1862, Loomis, CA 95650 or Bruce.Lee@Phoenix-Correspondence-Commission.gov.

Thank you again for the opportunity to insert this statement into the Congressional record.

W. Bruce Lee, Executive Director

Bruce.Lee@Phoenix-Correspondence-Commission.gov