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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 17, 2017

VICE CHAIR AND PARLIAMENTARIAN
STEERING AND POLICY

PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE WHIP

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COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas J. Wickham, Jr.
Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives
H-209, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Wickham,

I am writing in response to my constituent's inquiry regarding Congress's authority and obligations under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Earlier this year, you were kind enough to participate in a phone call with my constituent and myself where you outlined Congress's limitations to calling an Article V Constitutional Convention.

As part of the discussion, you noted that it is your understanding that the Constitution requires both chambers of Congress to call for a convention to amend the Constitution based on applications by states. Additionally, you pointed out that counting the applications by the states is something that you believe has never been done in the past, nor does such a mechanism exist under House and Senate rules that enable both chambers of Congress to count applications by the states. Further, you identified that the Judiciary Committees of each chamber would be the committees of jurisdiction responsible for tallying and tracking applications.

In following up on the discussion, I am respectfully requesting a written response so that I may provide clarification to my constituents on the obligations, current authority and limitations on Congressional Rules that are relevant to Article V of the Constitution.

I greatly appreciate the time you already dedicated to my constituent's inquiry and your willingness to participate on a call to respond to this request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress