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Whiting
LD 1059

To the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

I am writing to share my views regarding LD 1059, which establishes the process for selecting Maine's delegates to an Article V Convention of States.

I care deeply about public accountability and about making sure decisions that affect all Mainers are not made by a small group of insiders without meaningful public input. Article V delegates would have the authority to represent Maine in a convention that could propose amendments to the United States Constitution. That is one of the most powerful responsibilities any state can grant.

For that reason, I strongly believe delegates should either be elected by the people or nominated through their political party committees in a transparent process. Either approach ensures that those chosen are accountable to voters and party members rather than selected quietly behind closed doors.

If Maine is ever called upon to participate in a constitutional convention, the legitimacy of its delegation will depend on how those delegates were chosen. A public, open process protects trust in government and ensures that Maine's voice truly reflects its people.

I respectfully urge the committee to structure LD 1059 in a way that keeps delegate selection transparent, accountable, and grounded in the will of Maine citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views.