

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

COMMITTEES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March 22, 2007

Mr. Steve Moyer
42 Hall Road
South Hero, Vermont 05486

Dear Mr. Moyer:

Senator Sanders has asked me to send you a copy of the letter we recently received from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in response to the inquiry that we had made on your behalf.

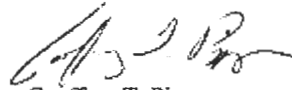
As you can see, Mr. Rodney Ross at the Center for Legislative Archives has responded to the questions you had raised regarding petitions submitted to Congress for an Article V convention. Mr. Ross has informed our office that although NARA is the likely repository for this information, there is no single storage facility or category for such petitions. He has, however, provided websites regarding the current, defined processing for archiving such documents. The enclosed letter is self-explanatory and provides further details regarding this matter.

In our initial conversation and in your e-mail correspondence to our office, you also suggested that we contact the Secretary of the Senate about this matter as well. Per your request, our office called the United States Senate Library, an office within the Secretary of the Senate which maintains a collection of Senate documents. The reference librarian with whom we spoke indicated that the Senate Library does not hold the requested petitions. She explained that NARA would be the office most able to respond to your request.

Although we understand that the enclosed may not be the response you had anticipated, we hope that this information will be helpful. Please note that Mr. Ross has provided his phone number and has indicated that he would be happy to speak with you if you have remaining questions or need further clarification regarding this issue.

Please let us know if you have questions or if Bernie may be of further assistance in the future.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey T. Pippenger
Constituent Advocate

Enc.



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

March 12, 2007

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
1 Church Street, 2nd Floor
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your inquiry of February 28, 2007, on behalf of Mr. Steve Moyer, who seeks information on petitions sent to Congress seeking amendments to the Constitution by the convention process.

Of Mr. Moyer's three questions, the easiest to answer is his third. Access to House and Senate records at the National Archives is governed for the House by Rule VII and for the Senate by Senate Resolution 474 (96th Congress). **These can be seen on the Center's web site at <http://www.archives.gov/legislative/research/house-rule-vii.html> and <http://www.archives.gov/legislative/research/senate-resolution-474.html>.** The former explicitly has a section on "Archiving."

The Center for Legislative Archives probably holds the kind of petitions in which Mr. Moyer is interested. Researchers who are able to pinpoint file citations can request electrostatic copies of House and Senate records held by the Center. The charge is 50 cents per page, with minimum mail orders of \$10.00.

Unfortunately there is no single category for petitions asking for amendments to the Constitution, let alone for amendments by the convention route.

The Center has much better intellectual control over House records than over Senate records. For House records, 1789-1946, there is a 587-page Preliminary Inventory. In the back of that volume there is an index. For Constitution-Amendment-of-Petitions, there are listings on pages 84, 106, 111, 165, 167, 173, 180, 194, 201, 207, 253, 254, 260, 261, 268, 276, 284, 290, 324, 333, 334, 354, 360, 367, 382, 387, 392, 397, 408, 413, 420, 431 and 437.

For a particular file category, one would then need to go to the page in question. For page 84, from the 24th Congress (1833-1835) under "Other select committees," there's something for HR 24A-G22.1. For page 437, from the 79th Congress (1945-1946), under petitions referred to the Committee on the Judiciary there is a category for "constitutional amendments" under HR 79A-II9.6.

Regretfully, all such categories are for the generic request for amending the Constitution. Each individual petition, within each category, would need to be read to see if a particular document mentioned the convention process.

I hope this information is of assistance. Should Mr. Moyer seek further clarification, I would be pleased to help. My address is: Rod Ross, Center for Legislative Archives – Room 205, National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408-0001. My direct phone number is 202-357-5253.

Sincerely,

Rodney A. Ross

Rodney A. Ross
Center for Legislative Archives