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February 6, 2019

To: House Legislative Administration Committee

From: Liz Tentarelli, president, League of Women Voters NH LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com

Re: HCR 1 rescinding requests for an Article V Convention

The League of Women Voters NH, a non-partisan political organization, urges the committee to recommend OUGHT TO PASS on HCR 1. This resolution would rescind earlier resolutions for Article V Conventions.

In addition to our non-partisan voter service work, such as moderating candidate forums and distributing How To Register and Vote information, the League also from time to time conducts studies of issues. Through that process of study and member consensus, we develop positions, from which we advocate at local, state, and federal levels.

In 2015, with Article V convention calls much in the news, the national League undertook a study of such conventions and reached a position. That position is available on the state League's website: http://lwvnh.org/files/constitutional_convention_position.pdf

While our position does not say an Article V Convention should never take place, it defines conditions that must be in place before such a convention is called. Those conditions are not currently in place.

The League of Women Voters agree that the possibility of a "run-away" convention is a real threat, and for that reason alone we would support this current resolution to rescind.

The League also has major concerns about how state calls for a convention are counted. Thus we insist in our position that only those resolutions on a single topic be counted to ensure that there is "sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention."

Finally, the way delegates would be chosen and the way votes would be cast—one per state, or one per delegate based on population—are part of our position and not yet defined in any calls for a convention.

The most logical move in NH and other states right now would be to wipe the slate clean by rescinding all earlier calls that did not specify all of these conditions. Should the need for an Article V Convention arise in the future, the calls from the states should be limited and specific in topic, and reflective of a pressing need for an amendment that cannot be achieved in other ways.

Please support HCR 1 to rescind earlier Article V convention resolutions.