August 8, 2024

The Honorable Dawn Euer
The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Joint Commission on a Constitutional Convention
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: BI-PARTISAN PREPARATORY COMMISSION TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION ON
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR A VOTE BY THE QUALIFIED
ELECTORS ON THE HOLDING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE XIV SECTION 2 OF THE RHODE ISLAND
CONSTITUTION

Dear Co-Chairs Euer and Craven,

I write in strong OPPOSITION to a Constitutional Convention because it poses a direct threat to
our state's democracy. Historically, these conventions have opened the door for out-of-state, dark
money interests to attack the basic civil rights and liberties that so many Rhode Islanders have
fought hard to secure. Reproductive healthcare, voter access, and labor rights are just a few of
the issues that will likely be targeted by wealthy interests in an effort to pose regressive policies
that would undermine our state's dedication to justice for all Rhode Islanders.

Additionally, a Constitution Convention presents a financial burden on taxpayers. Its proceedings
are not only inherently expensive, but also divert critical resources that could be better allocated
to urgent local needs within our communities such as education, housing, and healthcare. I urge
the commission to include the potential price tag that would accompany the convening of a
Constitutional Convention, when it is put before voters this November. The cost of the last
convention RI convened in 1986, would have equated to more than $2.5 million for RI taxpayers
today. It is critically important that voters understand the costs associated with this ballot
measure.

With that, I urge all members of the Commission to oppose the convening of a Constitutional
Convention and I thank you all for the opportunity to provide my written testimony. If you have
any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address listed below.

Sincerely,

Erica Hammond
Concerned Citizen