February 19, 2015

The Honorable Karen Haas
Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Room H154
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Clerk,

Pursuant to section 3(c) of House Resolution 5 (114th Congress), I hereby designate the attached Memorial from the State of Alabama, received by the House of Representatives in the year 2014, as purporting to be an application of the State legislature calling for a convention for proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to Article V, and request that you make it publicly available.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
STATE OF ALABAMA

I, Jim Bennett, Secretary of State of the State of Alabama, having custody of the Great and Principal Seal of said State, do hereby certify that

The attached SJR 100 now known as Act 2011-400, is a true and correct copy of the original, and was signed by the Governor on June 7, 2011 and is filed and of record in this office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capitol, in the City of Montgomery, on this day.

May 27, 2014
Date

Jim Bennett
Secretary of State
SJR100
130391-2
By Senators Orr, Scofield, Sanford, Holtzclaw, Williams,
McGill and Beason
RFD:
First Read: 26-APR-11
ENROLLED, SJR100,

URGING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE A FEDERAL BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, the reluctance of the federal government to incur debt and other obligations was established early in American history, with deficits occurring only in relation to extraordinary circumstances such as war; yet for much of the 20th century and into the 21st, the United States has operated on a budget deficit, including the 2010 budget year, which surpassed an astounding $1,300,000,000,000, an annual deficit that exceeded the entire gross state product of many of the states; and

WHEREAS, an exception to this pattern was at the turn of the 21st century; in FY 2001, America enjoyed a $128 billion budget surplus; and

WHEREAS, since FY 2001, America has been burdened with 10 consecutive years of deficits, to-wit:

FY 2002: $158 billion deficit
FY 2003: $377 billion deficit
FY 2004: $413 billion deficit
FY 2005: $318 billion deficit
FY 2006: $248 billion deficit
FY 2007: $161 billion deficit
FY 2008: $459 billion deficit
FY 2009: $1.4 trillion deficit
FY 2010: $1.3 trillion deficit
FY 2011: $1.5 trillion deficit (estimated); and
WHEREAS, as of January 2011, America's accumulated national debt exceeded $12 trillion now estimated at over $13 trillion; and
WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office projects that, if current trends continue under the White House's proposed budget, each of the next 10 years has a projected deficit exceeding $600 billion; and
WHEREAS, the budget deficits of the United States of America are unsustainable and constitute a substantial threat to the solvency of the federal government as evidenced by the comments of Standard and Poor's on April 18, 2011, regarding the longer term credit outlook for the United States; and
WHEREAS, Congress has been unwilling or unable to address the persistent problem of overspending and has recently increased the statutory limit on the public debt and enacted a variety of legislation that will ultimately cause the federal government to incur additional debt; and
WHEREAS, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in its report The Moment of Truth
includes recommendations to reduce the federal deficit that
have not been considered by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of current spending
policies are far-reaching; United States indebtedness to
governments of foreign nations continues to rise; costly
federal programs that are essentially unfunded or underfunded;
mandates to states threaten the ability of state and local
governments to continue to balance their budgets; moreover,
future generations of Americans inevitably face increased
taxation and a weakened economy as a direct result of the
bloated debt; and

WHEREAS, many states have previously requested that
Congress propose a constitutional amendment requiring a
balanced budget, but Congress has proven to be unresponsive;
anticipating situations in which Congress at times could fail
to act, the drafters of the United States Constitution had the
foresight to adopt the language in Article V that establishes
that on application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the
several states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing
amendments; and

WHEREAS, in prior years the Alabama Legislature has
called on Congress to pass a Balanced Budget Constitutional
Amendment, many other states have done the same, all to no
avail; and
WHEREAS, a balanced budget amendment would require the government not to spend more than it receives in revenue and compel lawmakers to carefully consider choices about spending and taxes; by encouraging spending control and discouraging deficit spending, a balanced budget amendment will help put the nation on the path to lasting prosperity; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature of the State of Alabama hereby respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to propose and submit to the states for ratification a federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in the event that Congress does not submit a balanced budget amendment to the states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011, the Alabama Legislature hereby makes application to the United States Congress to call a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to that Constitution requiring that, in the absence of a national emergency (as determined by the positive vote of such members of each house of Congress as the amendment shall require), the total of all federal appropriations made by Congress for any fiscal year
not exceed the total of all federal revenue for that fiscal
year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, unless rescinded by a
succeeding Legislature, this application by the Alabama
Legislature constitutes a continuing application in accordance
with Article V of the United States Constitution until at
least two-thirds of the Legislatures of the several states
have made application for a convention to provide for a
balanced budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, in the event that
Congress does not submit a balanced budget amendment to the
states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011, the
Alabama Legislature hereby requests that the legislatures of
each of the several states that compose the United States
apply to Congress requesting Congress to call a convention to
propose such an amendment to the United States Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this application is
rescinded in the event that a convention to propose amendments
to the United States Constitution includes purposes other than
providing for a balanced federal budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the copies of this
resolution be provided to the following officials:

1. The President of the United States.

2. The Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives.
3. The President of the United States Senate.

4. All members of the Alabama Delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as an application to the Congress of the United States of America for a convention to propose an amendment to provide for a federal balanced budget in the event that Congress does not submit such an amendment to the states for ratification on or before December 31, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be provided to the Secretaries of State and to the presiding officers of the Legislatures of the other states.
SJR100

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR100
Senate 26-APR-11
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris
Secretary

House of Representatives
Adopted: 01-JUN-11

By: Senator Orr

APPROVED June 7, 2011

TIME 10:18 a.m.

Robert Bentley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State
Act Num....: 2011-400
Bill Num....: SJR-100
Recv'd 06/08/11 10:18amTLW