New York Circular Letter, 26 July Poughkeepsie *Country Journal*, 5 August 1788

Circular Letter from the Convention of the State of New-York, to the Executives of the different States, to be laid before their respective Legislatures.

SIR, We the Members of the Convention of this State, have deliberately and maturely considered the Constitution proposed for the United States.

Several articles in it appear so exceptionable to a majority of us, that nothing but the fullest confidence of obtaining a revision of them by a General Convention, and an invincible reluctance to separating from our sister States, could have prevailed upon a sufficient number to ratify it, without stipulating for previous amendments.

We all unite in opinion, that such a revision will be necessary, to recommend it to the approbation and support of a numerous body of our constituents.

We observe, that amendments have been proposed, and are anxiously desired, by several of the States as well as by this, and we think it of great importance, that effectual measures be immediately taken for calling a Convention, to meet at a period not far remote; for we are convinced, that the apprehensions and discontents which those articles occasion, cannot be removed or allayed, unless an act to provide for it be among the first that shall be passed by the new Congress.

As it is essential that an application for the purpose should be made to them by two thirds of the States, we earnestly exhort and request the Legislature of your State (or Commonwealth) to take the earliest opportunity of making it. We are persuaded, that a similar one will be made by our Legislature at their next session; and we ardently wish and desire, that the other States may concur, in adopting and promoting the measure.

It cannot be necessary to observe, that no government, however constructed, can operate well, unless it possesses the confidence and good will of the great body of the people; and as we desire nothing more than that the amendments proposed by this or other States, be submitted to the consideration and decision of a general Convention, we flatter ourselves, that motives of mutual affection and conciliation, will conspire with the obvious dictates of sound policy, to induce even such of the States, as may be content with every article in the constitution, to gratify the reasonable desires of that numerous class of American citizens, who are anxious to obtain amendments of some of them.

Our amendments will manifest, that none of them originated in local views, as they are such, as if acceded to, must equally affect every State in the Union.

Our attachment to our sister States, and the confidence we repose in them, cannot be more forcibly demonstrated, than by acceding to a government, which many of us think very imperfect, and devolving the power of determining, whether that government shall be rendered perpetual in its present form, or altered agreeable to our wishes, or a minority of the States with whom we unite.

We request the favour of your Excellency to lay this letter before the Legislature of your State (or Commonwealth) and we are persuaded, that your regard for our national harmony and good government will induce you to promote a measure, which we are unanimous in thinking, very conducive to those interesting objects.

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

By the unanimous Order of the Convention,

GEO. CLINTON, President.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XVIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, Public and Private [6] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1995), 306–7.