Governor John Hancock Message to the General Court, Council Chamber 14 January 1790 (excerpts)

Since the Adjournment of the General Court, I have Received the Acts of the Congress of the United States of America passed in their first Session, and I have directed the Secretary to lay them before you.—

As these Acts begin a System of Government, in which the prosperity of each State in particular, as well as that of all the States in general is concerned, they will command your careful attention.

Amongst the Acts of Congress you will observe one, which proposes certain Articles of Amend- ments to the Constitution of the United States. As it is the ardent wish of every Patriot, that the plan may be as compleat as human wisdom can effect it, this Resolve I am confident, will demand your serious and careful attention....

I propose the coming Week to pay my respects to the General Court in person, in the mean time I wish the Court to be possess'd of the Public Papers, which I now send at an earlier moment than I can attend in person....

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXXVII: Bill of Rights: Origins, 498-99.