

MONTGOMERY BLAIR SIBLEY

November 17, 2014

Representative Joe Armstrong, President
National Black Caucus of State Legislators
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 622
Washington DC 20001

Greetings,

I write to request that you use your singular political position to save this political union we inherited called the United States of America from its imminent destruction. Let me explain:

I have inherited a set of genes and grew up in circumstances that compel me to write this letter. From the 18th century, my ancestors have fought for the extermination of the *de jure* and *de facto* enslavement of Americans of African descent. From refusing to sign the U.S. Constitution for the failure to address the “slave question”, to representing Dred Scott at the Supreme Court, to seeing in 1946 that a grand-daughter of a slave was named Mother of the Year, my ancestors have chosen to act in the face of the injustices they saw in their time. How could I – at this time of similar great injustices – do anything less? Hence this, my plea to you.

I hardly need to detail what you – as an American of African descent – have inherited. The National Urban League recently reported that the underemployment rate for males Americans of African descent was 20.5 percent, compared with 11.8 percent for Americans of Northern European descent. According to the America Community Survey, an American of African descent born in 1991 has a 29% chance of spending time in prison at some point in his life and nearly one in three male Americans of African descent aged 20–29 are under some form of criminal justice supervision whether imprisoned, jailed, or on parole or probation. Americans of African descent make up 13.8 percent of the U.S. population, but account for over 27 percent of Americans now living in poverty. Finally, the Pew Charitable Trust predicted that by the year 2050, the nation's racial and ethnic mix will look quite different than it does now. Americans of Northern European descent, who made up 67% of the population in 2005, will be 47% in 2050. Hispanics will rise from 14% of the population

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in 2005 to 29% in 2050. Asians, who were 5% of the population in 2005, will be 9% in 2050. Americans of African descent, who were 13% of the population in 2005, will be the same proportion in 2050. What will this inevitable trend of necessarily decreasing political power coupled with the presently appalling economic/prison statistics portend for Americans of African descent over the next 35 years? I don't need to do the math for you.

I would follow that question with this one: Do you honestly believe the present political structure is going to provide the best avenue to address and remedy the present appalling civic state of Americans of African descent? I, for one, do not. I believe the ridiculous concentration of power of the federal government in the hands of a few is the source of much of the problems we face as a nation.

Accordingly, I believe the solution lies in calling an Article V Convention to propose Amendments to the Constitution to distill from the wisdom of the crowd assembled at that Convention a redistribution of power to the States and the People, respectively. The result: the promises of this Union can be realized by all and not just the entrenched few who perpetrate their positions of power through the influence of the money they wield.

So I write to ask you to take two actions: First, use your influence to have me invited to speak to this Article V proposition at the 2014 National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Legislative Conference in Dallas, Texas this December 10th. If the *status quo* is not acceptable – and I trust you and I can agree upon that – then my voice needs to be heard to propose a radically-new course of action which curiously, you and your Brothers and Sisters are ironically postured as the only group cohesive enough to pull off.

Second, if invited, I will speak to the wisdom of invoking the Article V power to have each representative return to their respective States and introduce a resolution in their legislature to “call a Convention for proposing Amendments” to the Congress of the United States of America. If two-third of the legislatures of the several States call for such a Convention, Congress will be compelled to convene such a Convention. If asked to speak, I will detail that if this is done, if nothing else the fear that such an action will cause in the ruling-elite will vastly increase your bargaining power in the political poker game. Do this

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and perhaps you will help re-write the Constitution to see that its lofty goals are finally realized by all in this Century. Don't do this and, well, the future is then your responsibility, not mine, for I would have done all I can in my limited power by writing this letter to you.

Finally, please note that in-so-much as time is of the essence, I have take the liberty of sending the text of this letter to each State's Black Caucus. Full details of my motivations and actions can be found at: www.FifthArticle.com.

Looking forward to the favor of your reply, I remain,

yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty B. Sibley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.