

[REDACTED]
Lancaster, PA 17601

7May94

Governor Mel Carnahan
Rm. 216, State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Copy

Dear Governor Carnahan:

Thank you for your reply of 18Apr94 to my form letter of 21Mar94 concerning a balanced budget amendment.

As noted in the copy sent to you, I have already contacted Missouri's U.S. Senators and Congressmen at the same time I sent you the letter.

Constitutional amendments are a Federal matter, as you say. But they are also a State matter, since 3/4 of the State legislatures (or State conventions) must ratify the proposed amendment.

Also, another way to secure an amendment, as the Constitution notes, "...on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several States, [the Congress] shall call a convention for proposing amendments." In the past, State conventions to ratify a Constitutional amendment have been used only once -- to repeal Prohibition.

If 34 State legislatures made application to Congress of essentially the same "balanced budget amendment", Congress must call a convention (of the States) for proposing the amendment in its final form, and if 3/4 of the State conventions ratified, it would become the 27th amendment to the Constitution, pledged to be upheld by Congress and the other branches of Government.

So the people can have a voice. They did it once -- they can do it again. It's up to you and the other Governors and State legislatures. Or would you rather wring your hands and say, "What can we do? Congress is too powerful. They have us over a barrel. Oh, woe is me."?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Copies to all State Governors

Brian Lamb



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
(314) 751-3222

MEL CARNAHAN
GOVERNOR

ROOM 216
STATE CAPITOL
65101

April 18, 1994

COPY

[Redacted]
Lancaster, PA 17601

Dear Mr. Kastner:

Thank you for your letter. It is always helpful for me to know the concerns of my fellow citizens.

The subject mentioned in your letter is a federal matter. Federal programs are not within the scope of my authority. You may wish to contact your United States Senator or Representative. For your convenience, a listing of their names and addresses is enclosed.

I regret that I could not directly assist you but hope you will contact my office with any problem relating to state government.

Very truly yours,

Mel Carnahan

Mel Carnahan

MC:ks
Enclosure