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EDUCATION
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
INTERIOR

BUDGET

DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. David Niimi
19 Turrett Shell Lane
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Dear Mr. Niimi:

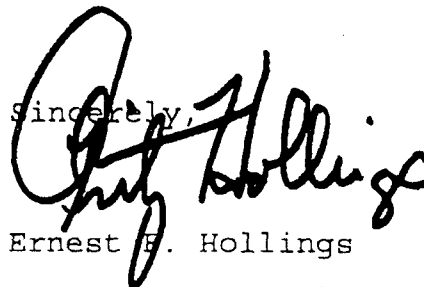
Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding states' roles in ratifying a Constitutional Amendment. I appreciate your interest in this interesting and important subject.

Once Congress has passed a Constitutional Amendment, two-thirds of the states must vote 'up or down' to ratify the amendment in its passed form within seven years of Congressional passage. As such, states are not able to amend a passed Congressional Constitutional Amendment. However, states may hold a national convention with two-thirds of the states present to propose an amendment themselves, which then must be ratified by three-fourths of the states before going to Congress for final passage. A national convention of states for this purpose has never occurred in American history. I have enclosed information on this topic for your review.

Again, thank you for your communication and please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future when an issue of concern to you arises.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Ernest F. Hollings

EFH/ac
Enclosure