RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

December 26, 2014

Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I am vetoing HB 5380, which would establish a procedure for naming Michigan delegates and alternates to a federal constitutional convention, in the event that one is called.

It is laudable to plan ahead and be prepared in the event that Michigan is ever faced with the great responsibility of sending a delegation to Washington, D.C., to consider new amendments to the federal constitution. Under the federal constitution, the decision how to appoint a constitutional delegation is left to the judgment of the individual states. There are a number of different ways that such a decision could be made, allowing for possibilities such as a direct vote of the people or a vote of the entire legislature.

This bill would give the four individual legislative leaders in the House of Representatives and Senate the authority to appoint two-thirds of the constitutional delegation. Moreover, this bill would give the same individual legislative leaders unfettered discretion to recall an appointed constitutional delegate at any time for any reason. Because the legislative leaders are not elected by the entire state, but instead by only the voters within their individual districts, a constitutional delegation comprised primarily of persons selected only by the legislative quadrant would not give a full representative voice to all Michiganders. By contrast, selecting delegates by a direct vote of the people or by a vote of the entire legislature would ensure that all Michiganders have a say in defining the constitutional delegation.

I am vetoing HB 5380 because Michigan's constitutional delegation should be selected by a method that gives an equal voice to all Michiganders.

Sincerely,

Rick Snyder
Governor