

Supreme Court of the United States
Office of the Chief Justice
Washington, DC 20543-0001

Oliver W. Holmes
Chief Justice
(202) 479-3011

August 4, 2017

The Honorable Ozzymen
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing pursuant to the Seventeenth Amendment of the Constitution to confirm to you my consent to the presentment of a new constitution¹, effective retroactively to August 19th of this year. The proposal, authored by my colleague and friend JUSTICE SCALIA, is a needed change in our system of government. The effective version has proven to be hardly workable, littered with, *inter alia*, unnecessary specifics, redundancy, contradiction, and plainly incoherent provisions. Whether a product of “unartful drafting” or otherwise, straightforward application of its terms has resulted in numerous oddities. *British2004 v. Ozzymen*, 3 U. S. 60, 67 (2017). A single word can carry as many as four meanings in the same document; even within one article, variation may occur. See *id.*, at 71. The need for change in our constitutional system is undeniable.

I do not, by any means, take this decision lightly. It has been my consistent view that if workable, a constitution ought not to be replaced. But the present Constitution has been given the benefit of the doubt far too many times. It is clear now that change is required: I am in no position to stand in its way.

Sincerely,

Oliver W. Holmes, Chief Justice



¹ The new constitution which I refer to is the one principally authored by JUSTICE SCALIA with assistance from myself, JUSTICE SUTHERLAND, Attorney General AnimatedDannyo, and others. The approved draft may be located at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxUhxfD2AYb4TVJkeFNhQzFpZUK/view>.