

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Michael Charles Pilot,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

State of Michigan, *et al.*,

*Defendants.*

Civil Action No. 16-1805 (RDM)

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This case is before the Court on petitioner Michael Charles Pilot’s petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Dkt. 1, and motion for relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9, Dkt. 3. As an initial matter, however, the Court must determine whether it has jurisdiction. *See, e.g., Doe ex rel. Fein v. District of Columbia*, 93 F.3d 861, 871 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (“A claim that the court lacks jurisdiction under Article III of the Constitution may not be waived, since the jurisdiction at issue goes to the court’s power to resolve a case, and the court is obliged to address is *sua sponte*.”) A federal court lacks jurisdiction over a suit when the claims at issue are “wholly insubstantial and frivolous.” *Bell v. Hood*, 327 U.S. 678, 682–83 (1946); *Agudas Chasidei Chabad of U.S. v. Russian Federation*, 528 F.3d 934, 940 (D.C. Cir. 2008). As explained in an apparently similar case that petitioner brought in the federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan last year, “[f]ederal courts are without power to entertain claims otherwise within their jurisdiction if they are ‘so attenuated and insubstantial as to be absolutely devoid of merit.’” *Pilot v. Snyder*, No. 15-10961, slip op. at 5 (E.D. Mich. Apr. 30, 2015) (quoting *Newburyport Water Co. v. Newburyport*, 193 U.S. 561, 579 (1904)).

The Court has carefully reviewed petitioner's extensive filings in this case, and concludes—as did the district court in *Pilot v. Snyder*, No. 15-10961, slip op. at 5—that they do not present a coherent claim for relief sufficient to sustain federal jurisdiction under the rule announced in *Bell v. Hood*. Accordingly, the Court will dismiss this case sua sponte pursuant to Rule 12(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. A separate order will issue.

/s/ Randolph D. Moss  
RANDOLPH D. MOSS  
United States District Judge

Date: November 18, 2016