

March 11, 2019

Kansas House of Representatives
Federal and State Affairs Committee
In Favor of HCR5009
ARTICLE V CONVENTION OF STATES

To Honorable Chairman Barker and Esteemed Members,

Thank you, my name is Michael Goodin. Thank you for reading my letter. I'm 67 years old and still farming. I'm asking for your support of HCR5009, a resolution for a Convention of States. Our founders specifically gave power to Congress to propose amendments alongside a reminder that the States have the same power. The founders knew we would get to just this situation when Congress is politically unable to act in the best interest of the People. Thomas Jefferson once wrote "the government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part". We don't feel apart of our government any more. "We the people" are left out.

I've been to a few of these hearings and a floor vote or two, and some of the same concerns come up every time. At a hearing in the house committee a few years ago, two democrat legislators expressed the fear that if Kansas would join in the call for a convention of states, Washington DC would get mad at us and withhold funds for schools and hi ways etc. With that attitude, the battle is already lost. It shows the federal government is a tyrant over the states. This should not be. The states formed the federal government, not the other way around.

The next fear seems to come from groups like the John Birch society. Clambering that "nullification is the answer". How shall we nullify a balanced budget? How shall we nullify unlimited terms in Congress when incumbents win 95% of the time. There are no laws on the books to ignore. These types of issues call for amendments. We have done it before. The only difference is the amendments were proposed by congress. Last time I went to vote I looked over to the booth next to me and a woman was voting. The 19th amendment assured that in 1920. I also saw an African American voting. In 1870 the 15th amendment righted that wrong. Let us not forget the 13th amendment ratified in 1865, abolishing slavery forever within the United States or anyplace subject to its jurisdiction. When things get too far out of balance "we the People" can set things right. Trust us. It still takes 38 states to ratify any proposed amendment, just as if congress proposed it.

We may not pass this. We may continue on the same course as the last many years. That path leads to financial ruin for our children and our grandchildren. That much is certain. Help us to take a different path. Let's work together to right this ship. Vote for an HCR5009, Convention of States.

Thank You.

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