Convention of State Testimony

SRC 1603 Senate - Fed/State committee hearing

March 12, 2015

Lois Spillman, Andover, KS – Proponent

With my profession as a Chemical Engineering Consultant, I have the opportunity to travel across the state. My clients include a wide variety of industries from power plants, oil refineries, chemical processing plants, food processing plants, healthcare facilities, and many more.

In every industry, at every customer site, I witness the vast overreach of the federal government. From the Clean Air Act to the Clean Water Act to Obamacare and everything in between, the federal government is impeding daily operation of business.

An Article V Convention of States will rein in the power, scope, and jurisdiction of the federal government. It will return power to the states, where the people of Kansas can determine the amount of regulation that is necessary for Kansas.

"The federal government is spending this country into the ground, seizing power from the states and taking liberty from the people."

While this resolution does not include specific amendments, it does state the purpose is to limit power and jurisdiction of the federal government. Some types of amendments to be discussed at a Convention of States might include:

Spending: To address the national debt

Balanced budget amendment – cutting spending, while not raising taxes.

Stop unfunded mandates from federal government.

Taxes: To address abuses of IRS and tax reform

Flat tax/Fair tax

Term Limits: To address abuse of power

Congress, Courts, and Bureaucrats

Supreme Court Overrides: To limit activist judges

Eliminate legislation from the bench.

Executive Branch: To stop executive orders

Agency over reach and legislating – EPA, IRS, NSA, etc

Discussion and proposals about amendments

Must be germane to the topic of the Convention

Must be adopted by majority to go to ratification by the states

Open process

Our Founding Fathers intended for States to be the checks and balances on the federal government. We need to get back to the Constitution and the framers' intent for this great Republic called the United States of America.