

My name is Mike Coons, I am the National Director for Citizen Initiatives a single amendment, Article V organization who advocates the proper use of Article V as to proposing amendments, not subjects. I live in Palmer Alaska. Citizen Initiates is a multi-state grass roots organization.

I am writing, along with the phone messages I left today in opposition to HCR 5010. I am not, nor is Citizen Initiative in concert with John Birch, nor Eagle Forum, since they are the major fear mongers as to a "con-con", which we all know is not correct and that the clear intent and safety factors of Article V will stop any attempt at a con-con.

The reason we are opposing this bill is simple. What COS is advocating is a convention where the "commissioners propose, write and approve all amendments" (from COS FAQ). They are proposing three broad subjects and when you read the following from a COS member you will understand that what will come out of the convention will be to change the Constitution, specifically Article I, Section 8, Article 2 Section 2 and Article 3 Section 2. Read this response from a COS member here in Alaska as to their goal (note the comment on the 2nd Amendment):

"I envision a Convention of States where delegates introduce and debate issues like term limits for all federal officials, including Justices of the Supreme Court, while another committee hashes out the intricacies of a balanced budget amendment, or a redefinition of the Commerce and General Welfare Clauses, clarification of the word "militia" in the Second Amendment, prohibiting the use of international treaties and law to govern the domestic law of the United States, limiting the use of Executive Orders and federal regulations to enact "rules" with the force of law, and requiring the sunset of all existing federal taxes and a super-majority vote of the state legislatures to replace them with new, fairer taxes."

The issues above go far beyond the stated "subjects" and is one of the main reasons COS has failed in several States this year and last, too broad and open for JBS and Eagle Forum attacks. COS refuses to have a pre-approved Delegate Resolution with pre-approved amendments. What the pre-approved Delegate Resolution does is it defines the convention, defines that the delegates are ambassadors to the State Legislature and defines the amendment approved by the State Legislature. This then maintains you, the State Legislature as the deliberative and sovereign body at the convention. In point of fact, it has been stated many times from Mike Ferris and his people that the commissioners are in essence "new founding fathers" in that they will come up with at least 12-15 Amendments that you the States will then have to ratify.

We, believe quite strongly that this is a path that will put a halt to any future use of Article V because we believe that most if not all the amendments will not be ratified. Once the American people see that this has been a several year ordeal with no positive outcome, they will not want to do so again.

However, with a single issue amendment, a Delegate Resolution that defines the convention, that convention will be safe, efficient and timely, one week to pass. Once the American people see that Article V can be used in an effective way, other needed amendments can then be brought forward with the same methodology, safety, efficiency and timeliness. You can see the Countermand Amendment and learn more about Citizen Initiates at www.countermands.us.

On a positive note, North Dakota House just passed the Countermand Amendment Convention Application and the Delegate Resolution by a vote of 59-32. We have another 7-8 other States that have filed and are in the process of passage. Here in Alaska, we are very angry at the land theft that President Obama has pulled and the Alaska State Legislature sees that this Countermand Amendment will be of great value to us and all States that have land issues with the Federal Government and especially with President Obama and his pen and phone!

In closing, please vote no on HCR 5010, and by all means call me at 907 745-6779, understand I am in Alaska so a three hour time difference. I am fully available to telephone testimony against HCR 5010 and for the Countermand Amendment alternative. We the United States of America are at a dangerous time in our history, we must use Article V correctly or this will be a one time thing for you.

Mike Coons
National Director, Citizen Initiatives