

**Opponent Written and Oral Testimony on HCR 5005**  
**House Federal and State Affairs Committee Meeting, Monday, February 13, 2017**  
**John Axtell, representing only myself**  
**Wichita, KS 67205, 316-393-8174, [johndowneyaxtell@yahoo.com](mailto:johndowneyaxtell@yahoo.com).**

To the Honorable Chairman and Representatives of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

To those who would consider supporting this resolution, I ask one very important question: If the Constitution were actually followed, what would you change?

You see, I have asked many supporters of this resolution that same question, and their answers are all fundamentally the same. They all essentially agree that our government would work just fine if it lived within the limits of our current Constitution.

They all agree that if Washington DC followed the Constitution, we certainly wouldn't have a \$20 trillion debt, trillion-dollar bailouts would not have gone toward bonuses for bank executives, and regulations such as the infamous prairie chicken rule and WOTUS would not be strangling Kansas businesses and farmers.

If the Constitution were followed today, a few Article V supporters have told me they would also improve it by repealing a very few existing amendments, but they also agree that it would be much safer and easier to accomplish that outside of an Article V Convention. I agree wholeheartedly.

So, what do we do? If your mechanic forgets to add oil back to your car at the end of the oil "change", do you blame the mechanic, or the car, for the damage?

The answer is obvious.

The Constitution is not broken. Washington is broken.

The Constitution's provisions requiring the declaration of war, and requiring silver and gold backing of money, for example, could not be made clearer, yet Washington ignores these requirements every day.

The solution is not to add more words to the Constitution, words that Washington DC will simply ignore when it is convenient.

We must hold every elected official accountable to every provision in the Constitution on every vote and every decision, whether these officials are on "our" side or "their" side.

In the words of Winston Churchill, we must "Never give in--never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

The Constitution is not broken. We must never cease defending it, as it is today. That is our only hope.

I urge you to vote against HCR 5005.