

W. Paul Degener
P.O. Box 8536
Topeka, KS
w.degener@sbcglobal.net

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Subject: HCR 5005, Application to Congress to call a Constitutional Convention (CON-CON)

Good Morning Mr. Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Paul Degener, I am a resident of rural Shawnee County and I am here in opposition to HCR 5005, call for a Constitutional Convention.

Three organizations that I am aware of are pushing for a CON-CON. They are:

- Convention of the States
- Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force
- Compact for American

I briefly looked at their web pages and their listed leadership. I am aware that I probably do not travel in their circle of friends, but I do not recognize any of them. Do I trust them? Because they appear to be politically recognized, I would say no, I do not trust them. I do not know of their background, their underlying goals and apparently they do not support our Constitution.

Regardless of what you have been told by the three organizations above, I still fear a runaway convention as we had in 1787. In that convention however, we had the right people at the right place at the right time to give us our Constitution, what is left of it. Our founders understood the nature of man and his quest for power. Do not take the chance of another runaway convention organized by people we know nothing about or their integrity.

I have taken an oath on many occasions to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, just as you have.

I know you are asking yourselves, why does he oppose a CON-CON? One reason I do not support this resolution is that we do not need to change our Constitution, we need to enforce it. The reason the Federal Government has exceeded their well-defined and limited powers is because we the people have allowed power hungry congressmen & women to remain in office and the states have allowed the federal government to threaten you, bribe you and extort you with the almighty dollar. Apparently the states have not acquainted themselves with Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which lays out the well-defined limited powers to the

Congress. After you acquaint yourself with Article I Section 8, read the X (Tenth) Amendment that states that those powers not delegated to Congress by the Constitution are reserved to the states or to the people,

In the past and recently the states have failed to exercise their power of nullification. James Madison said it best:

The states, then, being the parties to the constitutional compact, and in their sovereign capacity, it follows of necessity, that there can be no tribunal above their authority, to decide in the last resort, whether the compact made by them be violated; and consequently, that, as the parties to it, they must themselves decide, in the last resort, such questions as may be of sufficient magnitude to require their interposition.

One last issue I would like to bring to your attention. In the event that Congress calls for a CON-CON, and it turns out to be a runaway convention, think about this for a moment.

Lurking out there in the shadows is a document that has been in the works just waiting for the opportunity to raise its' ugly head. It is called the "Proposed Constitution of the New States of America". This document would replace what is left of our current constitution.

You can look at this document yourself at:

<http://www.sweetliberty.org/issues/concon/newstates.htm#.WKDaL2czXrc>.

Just a few bright points to bring out that you will find in this document.

1. Current states would be dissolved. Each state would comprise no less than 5 percent of the whole population.
 - a. As an example, in our little corner of the world it would take Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas to make up one state.
 - b. I guess we could take the abbreviation of each of these states and name it "NEKS-CO-MOOK".
2. Much of the language is vague, leaving it wide open for various interpretations.
3. The term "emergency" appears frequently in this document; however the term is never defined.
4. "Freedom of expression, of communication, of movement, or of assembly shall not be abridged except in declared emergency."
5. Article 1B, Section 8 would establish federal gun control and at the same time the dissolution of our 2nd Amendment.
 - a. The bearing of arms shall be confined to the police, members of the armed forces, and those licensed under law.
 - b. This can be interpreted to mean only those with the right connections will be allowed to obtain a firearms license.
6. The President would serve a term of 9 years.

7. We continue to hear that this would have to be ratified by the states. Surprise, this document has no reference to ratification by the states. Remember, if this document were to become our new Constitution, and there is no provisions for state ratification, then the states would have no say on whether this document became our new Constitution.

I am urging you to weigh the possibility of and the consequences of a runaway convention. Consider the worst case scenario and vote accordingly. There is too much at stake to take any chances on this issue.

I urge you to vote no on HCR 5005.

