



CONVENTION of STATES ACTION

TESTIMONY OF DAVID P. SCHNEIDER - MARION KS

ON SCR 1611

KANSAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

2018

My name is David Schneider. I am a resident of Marion, Kansas and was a volunteer leader in this state for years prior to going to work with the Convention of States to help the grassroots in the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and of course here in Kansas.

Honorable committee members, the resolution before you is essentially identical to the other states that are moving on this exact same issue. You see Article V provides for this process and gives you, the state legislators, the power to propose reforms that are much needed in DC.

I am a father of three very energetic teenage children. My oldest is enrolled at Emporia State University, my next just signed to play football at that same university and is finishing up his senior year, while my youngest is a freshman at Marion High School. I travel this region of states spreading the word about this process simply because I understand that the country I grew up in is being lost to over encroaching federal government, and I do not want my children to be left with the burden of our unwise decisions.

Our neighbors of Missouri, Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Texas have already taken this step, and implore you to act today to join them along with the thousands of supporters we have right here in Kansas watching this committee's action.

Working in so many states has given me an interesting perspective in this. I have seen the legislators in these states. I have worked with them side by side in their struggles. Their struggles are the same as yours. Education, roads, revenue shortages, etc. These legislators understand what it means to compromise and meet the needs of their state as a whole. I can tell you without any reservation, they do not trust you more than you trust them. Nebraska does not trust Missouri nor more than they trust California. You see, this is part of the beauty of the convention process, you go as one of a few in a delegation to truly represent the interests of your state, and only when you agree can you vote in favor of something. The one state - one vote nature of all conventions ensures this.

This process of conventions was well known to the Founding Fathers, as they had met several times prior to the convention that gave us the United States Constitution. They did not write

down the procedures in the text of the Constitution, nor more than they wrote the procedures in which Congress operates under with their daily business. There have been upward of 40 interstate conventions in our nation's history. In looking through those conventions some things are universal.

- This a meeting of equal sovereign states with each having one vote
- Motions are adopted by the majority of states (now being 26)
- These meetings have ALWAYS stayed on topic to why the meeting was convened

Further Article V of the Constitution is specific in the power of this said meeting of states. The only power granted to it is to "propose amendments to this constitution". This, I point out, is the same power granted to Congress every day they are in session through Article V clause 1. I far more trust you, the state legislators of the several states, to propose further limits on the size, scope, and jurisdiction of the federal government. You live in my community, and my children attend schools in your city. I can go to an event and see you and talk to you very easily. This is exactly why the Founders put you in charge to right the ship if it had lost its way.

Thank you for your time and service to this great state we live in, and thank you for allowing me to provide testimony to you.