

Tom Harmon
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In Support of HCR5009

March 13, 2019

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

My Name is Tom Harmon. I am a voting resident of Gray County Kansas and I am writing today in support of HCR5009 the Convention of States Application.

I believe that our founding fathers, in their wisdom, researched every known form of government when creating our system. They blended the best of each known government to create a system of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I believe that they wrote our US Constitution with every good intention but, knew that given time and opportunity men would find a way to mess it up. That is why they added Article V. Article V is the check that the founders created to reign in the federal government not IF but WHEN they became tyrannical. Man is by nature corrupt and given the opportunity will take every advantage given. We have all seen this with our children from time to time.

I believe our system of government was created not to depend on the virtue of any given man (or woman) rather to depend on the Rule of Law, our Constitution, as well as the will of the governed to find the virtue needed to keep the country on track.

I believe that, throughout our history, Americans have stepped up and fought and died to keep tyranny at bay. From the Revolution through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Americans stand and fight for freedom.

I believe that we are facing a bigger issue at home than we have met in any battle in our history. Congress has checked out and is no longer living up to their responsibility to legislate. They have ceded their legislative powers to unelected bureaucrats, in the executive branch, that create endless regulations that have stifled the economy, the freedom and liberty of every American. We the People have lost our champion in the process, we've lost our voice.

I believe that the Judiciary has overstepped their enumerated powers. Over the past century, the Supreme Court has found in the Constitution the ability to legislate from the bench. Then they have given themselves the ability to decide who has "Standing" to challenge their decisions. They have decided that nine unelected people in black robes possess the final say in any given case and have given themselves the ability to overturn the results of State elections. I don't remember reading that in my pocket Constitution.

I believe that the executive branch is out of control. We have an entire alphabet of agencies that seem to answer to no one. Congress has virtually no control of the FBI, CIA, NSA, BLM, EPA, IRS and many others and the head of the executive branch has almost no control of them either. Congress calls the leader of an agency to testify and they tell Congress what they will and will not discuss and if they'll even show up. Then they lie with impunity to Congress and no one goes

to jail. These Executive branch agencies only tell the President what they want him to know and have spurned, investigated and undermined their bosses at every opportunity. Where is this written in my pocket Constitution?

I believe in the American People. I believe that it is the solemn responsibility of We the People to stand up, reinstitute the principles of our founding, not through violence but rather by gathering at an Article V meeting of the states in order to find ways to put limits on our federal government using the very process given to us by our founding fathers.

Edmund Burke said, "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Today I'm asking this committee to do something, take back the power that our founding fathers wisely reserved for the states and the people. Let the people of Kansas decide the future of Kansas as originally intended. I ask that you join me in support of HCR5009.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Harmon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Harmon

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