



State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fe

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TO: Representative Shelley Hughes and Senator Bill Stoltze

FROM: Representative Yvette Herrell

SUBJECT: Application for Countermand Amendment Convention and
Delegate Resolution with Countermand Amendment

I am writing to testify for the passage of the two resolutions that the Alaska Legislature is proposing. The first is the Application to Congress to call for a Countermand Amendment Convention. This is an important first resolution and step to get to the 34 states, of which I am the sponsor in New Mexico to convene a Countermand Amendment Convention.

The second and very crucial resolution is the Delegate Resolution with the language of the Countermand Amendment tied directly to the resolution. The resolution defines the Countermand Amendment Convention as to Article 4, Section 4 which defines a Republican form of a convention (majority vote) and that all votes are one state, one vote, please see the first whereas. Also, important is that, it defines and declares that delegates are bound to any state that has this, and they must vote for the approved Countermand Amendment. This maintains State Legislative Sovereignty by ensuring the State Legislature is the deliberative body and controls the delegates from beginning to end. This resolution further defines the appointment of delegates, a Delegate Credential Committee to oversee the delegates, the convention rules and procedures as well as the duties of the delegates, alternate delegates and oath taken for both primary and alternate delegates. Lastly, it defines the text of the Countermand Amendment to be voted on by all the States at the convention.

Once 26 States or more pass this Delegate Resolution and Countermand Amendment then the convention is called by Congress and the convention approves the language of the Countermand Amendment. The convention is then safe, efficient and very timely. The state of Louisiana will be passing this same legislation and looks forward to working with fellow State Legislatures in Alaska to ensure that this amendment is passed without delay and thus ratified.

Of added importance is that this same Delegate Resolution should be used for any other proposed amendments that Alaska or other states approve. This sets a very favorable precedence for the safety and efficiency of any and all other amendment conventions that may occur at a later date.