

I salute the Chairman and members of the Senate State Affairs Committee. I am Stuart Thompson of Senator Huggins's district. I am here to testify in support of HJR 14/SJR 15 and its attendant HCR/SCR 4 on behalf of myself. I have the following testimony to give in writing for lack of time to personally testify.

I commend Rep Hughes for sponsoring this bill, and all the Senate and House of Representative co-sponsors of these bills.

The only legitimate objection to calling for a US Countermand Convention is that its essence is already in the Constitution as the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Amendments. But anybody tracing the history of their application will immediately perceive that these constitutional powers were castrated by mismanagement of the slavery issue and the desperation of the Civil War. They were then buried from view by anti-constitutional exaggeration of federal powers through unlimited interpretation of Article II's General Welfare clause and Due and Proper clause. So in essence, holding a constitutional convention and passing the Countermand Amendment restores the proper and original check and balance powers of the states over the federal government.

The most serious problem the US has right now is a lack of political will by the American people to benefit from our full political heritage in seeking life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness. Most, if not all, of our country's problems today could be reduced or eliminated through diligent application of it—including handling terrorism without suffering bankruptcy from continuous war. This circumstance is directly traceable to encouraging citizen apathy by perverting civics education, and increasingly using the methods of other forms of government to deal with things. Two bills before the Alaska Legislature are attempting to address this—HB 30 and SCR1.

But we need to act now to address the central source of political apathy enforcement in this country. It is making the US into a has-been nation plunging into oblivion. And that source is the overreach and bullying of the federal government arising from anti-constitutional centralization of power—enabled by neglect of duty by the states. That is what the Countermand Convention will inevitably aim at.

The greatest attack on this bill's idea will be that government of, for, and by the People does not work — in handling economic depression and protection of the people from threats (now terrorism). We Americans have been increasingly buying this for most of a century—yet we have increasingly been suffering from the very ills the mutating US Government has promised to protect us from. So let's get going and be real human beings, instead of animals begging for protection.

Here's a further note in view of posterity watching:

As free human beings, we must face that we have to be eternally on guard against the temptation of giving government unsupervised trust. Our founders were very alive to this, and constructed our form of government accordingly. We must defend their creation.

I am sorry to say that no government in history ever really deserved even the trust that was given. Government always has been an imperfect invention of humanity. Cooperation between those in authority and those governed is the only hope we have—no matter how hard it is to do.

Good luck on your deliberations.

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