

Daniel George

From: Mike Coons <mcoons@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Oren Brown; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Shelley Hughes
Subject: State Affairs Testimony, 25 Mar 2015

My name is Mike Coons, National Director, Citizen Initiatives. I would like to read the following from Charles Kacprowicz, our Executive Director (with comments from myself as well) pertaining to the constant attack by anti-Article V groups.

For 30+ years I have watched anti Article V groups (John Birch Society, Eagle Forum, Constitution Party and Libertarians) make a mockery of the Article V process and as a result of their flawed constitutional arguments paralyzed State Legislators keeping them from addressing serious problems America needed to remedy. In 1787 the first 13 State Legislatures created the Federal government to serve the needs of the States. They left for future Legislatures the sovereign authority to modify the conduct of the government when it encroaches on States and citizens rights. Here are just a few of the damages these anti Article V groups have inadvertently caused:

1. A national debt that has now reached \$18 trillion.
2. Unfunded liabilities of \$150 trillion dollars (\$500,000 per citizen).
3. America's energy industry has been crippled due to EPA, BLM, Executive Orders, etc.
4. Alaska and 37 other States energy industries have been severely restricted.
5. 5 million illegal immigrants legalized.
6. Land grabs with up to 50% of State land (west of the Missouri River) being under Federal government control (67% of Alaska, 82% of Nevada, 67% of Utah, 50% of North Dakota, etc).

State Legislatures are the most powerful and important government bodies in America. They are the final arbiters in all Constitutional matters. The Framers left for future generations of legislators the sovereign authority to protect our Constitution through Article V - not throw it away based on poor Constitutional analysis by anti Article V groups.

All of the above has damaged America generally, the States have suffered specifically and even more, We the People have been directly impacted in the loss of our Liberties and Freedoms! Those damages to our National, State and individual Sovereignty could have been remedied through the State Legislatures through a sound and proper use of Article V.

Mike Coons
National Director, Citizen Initiatives

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