

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HJR14 Making application to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states to propose a countermand amendment to the Constitution of the United States as provided under art. V, Constitution of the United States; and urging the legislatures of the other 49 states to make the same application.

Sponsor Statement

February 12, 2015

Recent actions taken by the White House and Department of Interior constitute a new threshold of overreach in Alaska unlike anything in recent history.

HJR14 and HCR 4 seek to restore the balance of power between the states and federal government. The pair would strengthen state sovereignty by providing states with veto (countermand) power over federal decisions not in their best interest through a precise and careful mechanism established by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. These two resolutions in tandem are intended to start the process of amending the US Constitution via the powers granted in Article V of that same document.

HJR 14 (The Application) provides Alaska's call to Congress for a clearly defined, single-issue Countermand Amendment Convention. The Countermand Amendment to the United States Constitution, when ratified, will allow states to propose Countermand Initiatives, which upon approval by three-fifths of state legislatures, will repeal any federal statute, executive order, judicial decision, or regulatory decision listed in the Initiative.

HCR 4 (The Delegate Resolution) enables the state legislature to institute tight parameters for the convention, to ensure that a "runaway convention" is not possible and provides for a productive, safe and timely process. The Delegate Resolution establishes a Credential Committee for selection of delegates to the convention, and outlines the duties of the delegates. HCR 4 also includes the precise language of the proposed Countermand Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Passage of these resolutions is an actionable step the Legislature can take toward restoration of the proper balance of state and federal powers. These two resolutions do not pertain to a conservative versus liberal agenda; this is a state versus federal issue. This is OUR Alaska, and it's time the federal government understands that.