



NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Alan Fehr

District 36
10641 Highway 10
Dickinson, ND 58601-9567

Business: 701-225-1050
Cell: 701-590-0136
afehr@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture
Human Services

February 20, 2015

To: Mike Coons, National Director, Citizen Initiatives
From: Representative Alan Fehr, ND House of Representatives

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

I am pleased to report that on February 17, 2015, the ND House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 3017 and HCR 3016, relating to the Countermand Amendment. HCR 3017, the application for an amendment convention under Article V of the Constitution, was passed by the ND House by a vote of 56 -35. HCR 3016 was passed by the ND House by a vote of 59-32.

These resolutions are now in the ND Senate and will be heard in committee in a couple weeks.

Speaking for myself and the bill co-sponsors, Representative Damschen and Senator Larson, we are very enthusiastic about the potential benefit the Countermand Amendment would bring to restore a proper state of checks-and-balances between our states and the federal government.

We believe that we have experienced an escalation of over-reach by the federal government, especially in recent years, but the states have limited ability for redress. The Countermand Amendment would give the states a tool whereby they could collectively address and rescind valid concerns of federal over-reach that currently exists in congressional action, executive order, and agency rules. This tool, the Countermand Amendment, would provide states a means and process to collectively challenge and potentially rescind the most burdensome federal action. Perhaps more importantly, we believe that the existence of the Countermand Amendment in the US Constitution would have some effect of deterrence, which currently is not available.

We encourage all the states to discuss, debate, and pass the Countermand Amendment resolutions. We believe that this tool will strengthen us as a nation by strengthening the ability of states to collectively address national concerns.