

M.J. "Manny" Steele
Majority Whip

District 12
Lincoln and
Minnehaha Counties

During Session
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Committees
State Affairs
Transportation
Retirement Laws – Vice Chair

May 5, 2009

To: Governors and State Representatives
throughout the United States of America

Re: A joint invitation to return to states' rights.

Greetings from South Dakota. I am proud to announce that South Dakota was the first state to accomplish bicameral passage of its resolution, HCR1013, to affirm our state's rights.

Joining me today to announce the successful passage this year of their respective states' rights resolutions are the primary sponsors and leaders from the following states:

Alaska (HJR27)
Passed House and Senate

(Mike Kelly, Dist. 7, Sponsor)

Georgia (SR632)
Passed Senate

(Chip Pearson, Dist. 51, Sponsor)

Idaho (HJM004)
Passed House and
Senate

(Lenore Barrett, Dist. 35, Sponsor)
(Dick Harwood, Dist 2, Sponsor)
(Lawrence Denney, House Speaker)

Missouri (HCR13)
Passed House

(Jim Guest, Dist. 5, Sponsor)

North Dakota (HCR3063)
Passed House and
Senate

(Craig Headland, Dist. 29, Sponsor)
(David Monson, House Speaker)

Oklahoma (HJR1003)
Passed House and
Senate

(Randy Brogdon, Dist. 34, Sponsor)

South Carolina (H3509) (Michael A. Pitts, Dist. 14, Sponsor)
Passed House; Currently in
Senate Committee

South Dakota (HCR1013) (Manny Steele, Dist. 12, Sponsor)
Passed House and Senate (Dennis Daugaard, Lt. Governor)
(Tim Rave, House Speaker)

We have heard great news from Texas that its HCR50 passed committee April 23, 2009. Sponsoring Representative Brandon Creighton expects the House to pass the resolution very shortly. In addition, Arizona's HCR2024 passed committee on April 14, and per Sponsoring Representative Judy Burges, it is expected to pass the House.

The Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution expressly reserves all powers to the states which are not delegated to the federal government. Over the course of decades, there have been increasing federal mandates and acts designed to effectively step in and legislate the affairs of our various states from Washington D.C.

Federal usurpation into state affairs severely limits the ability of state governments to operate according to their citizens' wishes. We believe that the best government is one which governs closer to the people.

As of this announcement, legislatures in nine states' have acted on bi-partisan support and have passed their respective resolutions to affirm states' rights. These are: Alaska (HJR27), Georgia (SR632), Idaho (HJM4), Indiana (SR42), Missouri (HCR13), North Dakota (HCR3063), Oklahoma (HJR1003), South Carolina (H3509) and South Dakota (HCR1013).

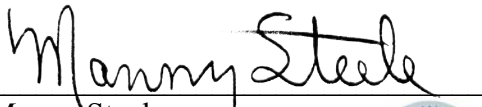
It appears that there are 25 more states which presently have similar resolutions pending.

The current price of erosion of states' rights exceeds \$11 trillion. Without the countless attempts in Washington to duplicate and micromanage our states' affairs, much of this debt could have been avoided.

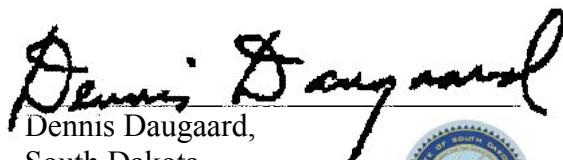
It is our sincere desire that each of you sees this popular issue as a means to more effectively carry out your duties to the citizens you work so hard to represent. We call on you to join us so that, together, we can make a difference.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss how our states can work together to bring back government closer to the people.

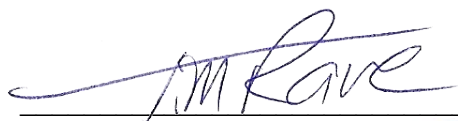
Respectfully,


Manny Steele,
South Dakota Rep. (Dist. 12)
Sponsor of HCR1013

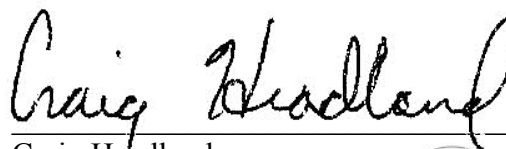



Dennis Daugaard,
South Dakota
Lt. Governor





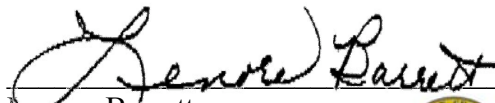
Tim Rave,
South Dakota
Speaker of the House



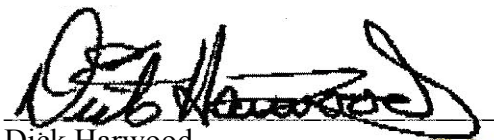
Craig Headland,
North Dakota Rep. (Dist. 29)
Sponsor of HCR3063



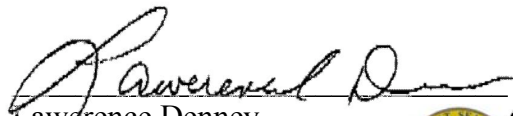
David Monson,
North Dakota
Speaker of the House



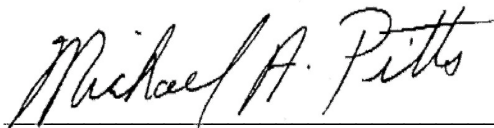
Lenore Barrett,
Idaho Rep. (Dist. 35)
Sponsor of HJM004



Dick Harwood,
Idaho Rep. (Dist. 2),
Sponsor of HJM004



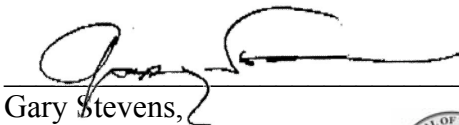
Lawrence Denney,
Idaho
Speaker of the House




Michael A. Pitts,
South Carolina Rep. (Dist. 14)
Sponsor of H3509



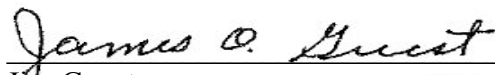
Mike Kelly,
Alaska Rep. (Dist 7)
Sponsor of HJR27



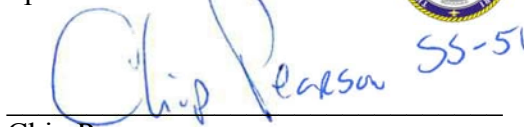
Gary Stevens,
Alaska
Senate President



Randy Brogdon,
Oklahoma Sen. (Dist. 34),
Sponsor of HCR1003



Jim Guest,
Missouri Rep. (Dist. 5),
Sponsor of HCR13

 SS-51

Chip Pearson,
Georgia Sen. (Dist. 51),
Sponsor of SR632

