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In favor of HR 5009
March 13, 2019

To the Honorable Chairman and Members of the Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee

I have never volunteered my assistance to a political or governmental cause before now. I have volunteered many hours to worthy charities and events, but nothing before has struck me as deeply as the need for a Convention of states.

I have long thought that things in Washington DC didn't really affect me on a personal level. As a member of the military I felt somewhat shielded from the antics of whichever political party was in power or jockeying for power.

I voted in every Presidential election that I could, except one. I remained aware of who my US House Representative was; who my Senator was and watched as the waves of power went back and forth over the years.

During the indoctrination process aboard my last command in the Navy, I used to discuss the Constitution and the Bill of Rights with new Sailors. I talked about the various rights that are bestowed on us by those amendments and how we must preserve those rights, our full Constitution and subsequent amendments, with our service whenever called.

I didn't pay too much attention to the national debt, except when it initially went over \$1 trillion in 1981 and not much again until 2008. Since 2008 I have grown increasingly concerned about why we have and continue to accumulate such tremendous debt. Today the debt is over \$22 trillion with no cap in sight. How is this possible? We have always had debt, but today the debt is over 100% of our GDP. Inconceivable! When does it stop?

I am an avid consumer of information and data. Much to the chagrin of my wife and two grown daughters, I have an almost unquenchable thirst for CSPAN, Fox News, CNN (in bits) and talk radio. To see and hear the vitriol in Washington DC today is heartbreaking and worrisome. I no longer believe that it doesn't affect me.

As a 30 year US Navy Veteran and a life-long Kansan, I feel I must stand up and let my voice be heard regarding the direction that I see our country heading.

I am a registered Republican and have fairly conservative leanings regarding many issues. I have never felt compelled to be vocal about how the US Congress is handling the affairs before them, or about the tenure of my Representative and Senators. Today I must finally put a stake in the ground and say "Enough is enough."

To paraphrase President Ronald Reagan, we do not have a taxation problem, we have a spending problem. With all of the special programs, handouts, entitlements and commitments that we have, it is impossible to pay for it all, even if we taxed everyone more. We need to reign in and control our spending.

A saying that I use quite often when I see a need for it is, "The definition of insanity is doing something over and over again and expecting something different to happen." The same politicians have been running our country for too many years and it's time for many of them to go back to their homes and do something else.

I was forced out of the Navy when I had 30 years active service. I was 49 years old and felt like I had many more years to give my country. The Navy didn't see it that way. We called it "High Year Tenure (HYT)." The thought was that every paygrade should have a limit on the number of years so that more junior personnel could have a chance to rise up and be advanced. I felt like HYT was a good thing. I believe we should demand the same of our Congress. Let others with great ideas and aspirations try their hands at leading our country. We demand that the President only serve 2 terms. Why not our Congress? The answer to that is that they get to make the rules. They get to say. They say that the voters get to say with elections, but not if the same candidates are allowed to run. Name recognition beats out new candidates in a very high percentage of races.

A Convention of states, with very purposeful goals, is the only reasonable and possible solution to amending our constitution to reign in spending and limit our Federal government. Congress will not do it. They have proven time and time again that they can not limit themselves.

I do not believe this is a partisan issue. I believe this to be an American issue. All parties have shown their stripes regarding spending and abuse of power. It is up to us to try to bring it back to something we can manage and tackle. Please vote in favor of HR5009 and let the Federal government know that Kansans will not be party to continued overspending, overreach and protracted terms in office.

Clarence Frye

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