

# Mr. Dale W. Burke

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Subject: Convention of States committee hearing

I'm a North Dakota resident who was transplanted from Rapid City, South Dakota in 1970, graduated Bismarck High School in 1980 and immediately joined the US Army in communications. I served nearly eight years before an injury ended my military career and I returned to North Dakota in October of 1987. I am a 100% Disabled American Veteran (based on unemployability) and an award-winning journalist. In fact, my personal column, "The Outdoor Corner" was chosen as the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner by the 1991 North Dakota Newspaper Association at convention. I've lived and worked in North Dakota for most of my life and currently reside in Grand Forks County. It's my intention to bring forth the following points in addressing the committee which will be hearing commentary on S 4004 being held in room 216 of the North Dakota State Capital building.

1. That the grass roots work put into positioning North Dakota to help lead the nation in holding a Convention of States under Article 5, Section II of the United States Constitution is proof there is a significant interest among the citizens of North Dakota to use that option to address those charged with serving our interests and exercise our constitutional right to have our grievances heard in this manner and by use of this option.
2. Having members of the North Dakota State Senate attempt to rescind participation by its citizens in the constitutional process afforded them by the Founders is exactly the kind of heavy-handed legislative tyranny those brilliant men had the wisdom to anticipate and provide remedy for by including Part II in Article 5.
3. In my opinion, the kind of legislator that would attempt to deny the citizenry of their Constitutionally protected recourse in addressing those who have taken an oath to serve those same constituents is to be viewed as suspect, at best, and deserving of challenge in the next election cycle. I'm certain there are qualified candidates with less inclination to rule than serve who would step forward in that regard.