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Proponent HCR5003

Thank you, Chairman Barker, for the opportunity to testify today on HCR 5003 to urge that Congress propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Members of this Committee have an opportunity through support of this Resolution, to take a stand for the principle that federal regulations, like laws, must have the consent of the governed.

The Regulation Freedom Amendment would simply require that Congress approve major new federal regulations.

Federal bureaucrats should not have the power thru regulation to re-write the meaning of laws passed by Congress, without the consent of Congress.

19 State Legislative Chambers, including the Kansas House in 2016, have passed a Resolution urging Congress to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment!

The Amendment reads as follows: "Whenever one quarter of the Members of the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate transmit to the President their written declaration of opposition to a proposed federal regulation, it shall require a majority vote of the House and Senate to adopt that regulation."

The Regulation Freedom Amendment, is now backed by a bipartisan coalition including more than 900 state legislators, 7 Governors and former Governors, the American Farm Bureau, The National Taxpayers Union, and many other groups.

We appreciate the overwhelming support of the Kansas House for HCR 5022 in March of 2016.

Permanently ending the fear of arbitrary Federal regulators will protect individual freedom, grow our economy, create new jobs, and make un-elected bureaucrats and politicians in Washington more accountable to voters.

Regardless of who is President, all Americans deserve the right to have their elected representatives approve the rules that govern us.

Every voting Republican in the U.S. House and some courageous Democrats voted in January 2017 to support the "REINS" Act to require that Congress approve major new federal regulations, but a law could be challenged in Court or repealed by a future Congress.

An Amendment would permanently limit the authority of regulators.

Just as states helped force Congress to propose the Bill of Rights, 2/3 of the states who favored the same Amendment to curb regulators might well force Congress to propose it or something similar.

Three times in American history, starting with the Bill of Rights and including the 17th Amendment for direct election of U.S. Senators and the 22nd Amendment for Presidential term limits, pressure from the states has helped force Congress to propose amendments states wanted.

Even the credible threat that pressure from states and citizens might persuade Congress to act could force elected officials to answer a simple question:

"Should regulators keep their power to dictate from Washington, or should they be made accountable to elected officials?"

Polling shows that voters, by a 2-1 margin, favor the Regulation Freedom Amendment.

If 2/3 of the states and the voters demonstrate their power to persuade Congress to propose an Amendment, the entire balance of state and federal power will be transformed.

Passing state "Regulation Freedom Amendment" Resolutions in 2/3 or nearly 2/3 of the states could help persuade Congress to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment as early as 2017 or 2018.

Your support for this Resolution will help to take power away from un-elected bureaucrats in Washington and return it to elected representatives of the people where it belongs.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

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