

opposition to Senator Witek's amendment. I will be supporting Senator Kristensen's amendment, which will be following, that calls for a...Senator Kristensen's amendment calls for a adoption...that the adoption of the resolution doesn't constitute an application for the calling of a federal constitutional convention, and I think that that is dealing with the concerns that have been raised here on the floor with this particular proposal. Now I think we need to go back a little bit. I know we've gotten a little disjointed in our discussion of this because we started right in with the committee amendments and we probably didn't get a thorough discussion as to why this proposal was even before us. This particular idea has been around for quite some time. I attended the annual meeting of the Council, CSG, which occurred last December, and at that time, this conference was discussed and was approved by the governing board which I served on along with Senator Kristensen and Governor Nelson, and it called for a calling of this conference. If you look at the actual resolution, it may surprise you because I don't think we will have a lot of disagreement as to what the resolution is calling for. It states that the federal government has expanded the scope of their power and preempted state government authority increasingly. It talks about how the federal government has generated a massive deficit and it also continues to mandate programs on state and local governments. It states that the number of federal unfunded mandates has grown increasingly over the last thirty years, and it has caused problems with our state budget and has led to handcuffing of our state leaders in dealing with these problems that they have put on the states. It states that at least forty-two major statutes, since 1990, have been placed upon state and local government, which has added burdens to our states, and that it is nearly equal to those enacted in the prior two decades combined. So we see an increase in the amount of federal mandates and burdens being placed on state and local government in the last five years, not a slowing down but a speeding up of the process. It talks about that the federal government, state-led endeavors have consistently failed to generate any kind of reaction from the federal government. It stated that the Supreme Court has determined that states must look to the Congress for our remedies in these situations, and it states that state governments have been innovative in their approach to government reform, and modernizing and restructuring governmental institutions, which I think we have, as well as local government. And that's, basically,...and then it also states,