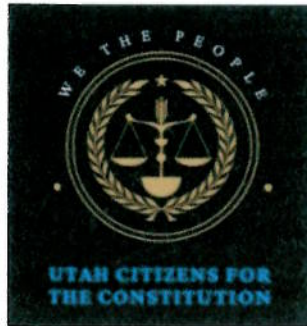


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Utah Citizens for the Constitution strongly supports HB 209 Federalism Commission Amendments. The genius of the Constitution of the United States is the structure that it outlines for our government. There are three branches of power both within the state and federal governments for the purpose of checks and balances known as horizontal distribution of power. Equally as important are the vertical checks and balances which allocates power between the state and federal governments.

Many of the founders felt a Bill of Rights was not necessary because enumerating rights could easily result in the omission of a freedom. For them this structure was their bill of rights. The entire purpose of this new government was to protect individual freedom. The architecture of the Constitution prevented the accumulation of power within the federal government. As history teaches us, it is consolidated power that dismantles personal liberty.

This structure is just as relevant today as it was when the Constitution was ratified. Its purpose is to protect our natural rights. The foundation of the Constitution is the enumerated powers that prohibit the federal government from crossing the Constitutional line into state jurisdictions. This Constitutional line is eroding. Both political parties are liable. The states must jealously guard and monitor the balance of federalism for it to be maintained.

The states play a unique role as the only entity that can interpose between the federal government and the people. The citizens cannot protect themselves from the aggression of the federal government. We look to our state representatives to defend this Constitutional line of freedom.

There is widespread concern over the encroachment of the federal government, but like all problems, it must be understood and analyzed for solutions to come forth. HB209 sets up a systematic approach for monitoring our line of liberty.

It is incumbent upon the states to first recognize and then act upon these federal intrusions. The citizens of the great state of Utah are looking to our state leaders to draw a Constitutional line in the sand. Our individual rights are being compromised in every facet of life from economics to education to religious liberty. Our state jurisdictions must be zealously guarded.

We sincerely petition our state officers to build a wall of protection and prosperity around Utah. HB 209 will help facilitate this objective.