

From: frozenbelle@goldenwest.net <frozenbelle@goldenwest.net>

Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:56:21 PM

To: Charles Streeter <Charles.Streeter@sdlegislature.gov>

Subject: [EXT]: Re: House State Affairs Committee Testimony

Good morning Members of the committee, Chairman Mortensen and Vice Char Rehfeldt.

My name is Kim Allen. As a citizen of Fall River County, I respectfully ask you to vote against 2024 House Joint Resolution 5001....

This resolution amends the state constitution to eliminate the Republican Party's grassroots precinct committee men and women's duty to vet South Dakota's constitutional officers for the primary election. I ask, what makes someone so afraid of percent committee people? Afraid of the same people that helped to put each of you in the very position you have now. They represent the grassroots voice, your constituents, and they do it for free. This time tested method of selecting statewide candidates has produced a good record of public servants over the years. It is not a system that is broken or needs replacing. It provides for some security in the election process that republicans of South Dakota, will actually have a conservative choice on the ballot and not someone with conflicting values that just claims to be a republican. A vote for this resolution essentially opens the door to a trojan horse. Couple it with the Open Primary initiative circulating and we are looking at a disaster on our hands.

It does NOT ensure more people will participate in the primaries, but instead removes the chance a true patriotic citizen that wants to serve but doesn't have the backing of big, outside money, could ever stand a chance. It was defeated in the senate during the 2023 session. It has been voted down by the GOP county associations within the party on several attempts. What makes anyone think that taking such huge steps to AMEND the state constitution is a good idea?

I believe citizens would be better served if the candidates that truly represented their values were brought forth to run for an office instead of pandering and cow-towing to outside money and special interest groups that want their person elected. Look how well it worked out this last time election cycle. Our current Secretary of State, Monae Johnson, was brought forth by the grassroots via the current process and was duly elected. Her official stand that our elections are safe and secure and that there are no election issues in South Dakota should make all GOP establishment officials and legislatures very happy. Proof that the process works. So again, what is so scary about precinct committee persons? Please vote NO on advancing HJR 5001.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Blessings in Liberty,
Kim Allen

Oral, SD

From: Cindy Konopasek <ckonopasek@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 8:41 PM

