

By: Harrison

H.C.R. No. 69

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The federal government was intended to be a creation
2 of and responsive to the sovereign states; and

3 WHEREAS, Ratification of the 17th Amendment to the U.S.
4 Constitution in 1913 significantly diminished the 10th Amendment
5 rights of states and the people, shifting the balance of power away
6 from the states in favor of the national government; and

7 WHEREAS, A restoration of the appropriate balance of power
8 between the sovereign State of Texas and the federal government is
9 necessary; and

10 WHEREAS, The federal government has asserted itself in nearly
11 all matters of human endeavor including the exercising of
12 authorities not granted to it under the constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, The rate of unconstitutional encroachments on state
14 sovereignty has increased since the adoption of the 17th Amendment;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The balance of power among large and small states
17 and the federal government was a matter of paramount importance to
18 the framers of the Constitution; accordingly, they created Congress
19 with both a lower house, representing the people in the states
20 according to population, and an upper house, for which each state
21 legislature would appoint two senators; this novel system struck a
22 balance between a strong central authority and the autonomy of
23 individual states; and

24 WHEREAS, By discarding the structure carefully developed by

1 the framers of the Constitution, the 17th Amendment has undermined
2 the legislative branch, subverting the Senate's role in
3 safeguarding the prerogatives of states as distinct governments and
4 thereby disfiguring federalism; and

5 WHEREAS, It is necessary to restore the original
6 constitutional design that federal senators serve the best interest
7 of the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby express support for repeal of the 17th Amendment to the U.S.
10 Constitution; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
12 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
13 the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the
14 Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
15 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
16 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
17 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.