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States' Rights

The many States of our United States each have their own written Constitutions and applicable State laws. All of these documents provide for strong State governments, for the most part capable of functioning autonomously. Article 10 of the U.S. Constitution clearly states "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." It certainly appears to most reasonable citizens that many powers not delegated to the Federal government, have been usurped from the States and the people. This is not only unnecessary in light of the well-written State constitutions, but also an illegal overstepping by the Federal government's enumerated powers.

One of the major contributing factors to this overreaching Federal government was the approval of the 17th amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states "The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, *elected by the people thereof*, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote." The difference here is that prior to this amendment, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution said, "The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, *chosen by the Legislator thereof*, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote." This means that the Senators were meant to protect their respective States' rights and were to answer to their States' legislative branch.

With the 17th amendment, the "will of the people" began to elect Senator's democratically thus changing who they answered to. With both legislative branches of our Federal government now elected by the people democratically, we have seen the rise of socialism as citizens learned they could vote themselves favors from the public treasury. In addition to that, neither house is now responsible to their States' legislative branches or ultimately charged with protecting their States' rights.

As a U.S. Senator, I will fight to uphold the U.S. Constitution as interpreted through its plainly written language. This includes the return of powers to the States or to the people for all powers not delegated to the Federal government. In addition to upholding my oath of office, I will introduce an amendment to repeal the 17th amendment in order to return the appointment of U.S. Senators to their respective States' legislators. This will once again make them accountable to their States directly and force them to fight for their States' rights from the top down. It is up to us citizens to vote for good State legislators to begin the process of fighting for our rights from the bottom up.

Eric Deaton



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