

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0008

Wyoming and the federal union.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Edmonds

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming
2 Constitution to remove the word "inseparable" from the
3 description of Wyoming's involvement in the federal union.

4

5 WHEREAS, the 1783 Treaty of Paris, Article I states: "His
6 Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz.
7 New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and
8 Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey,
9 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina,
10 South Carolina, Georgia, to be free, sovereign and
11 independent states; that he treats with them as such, and
12 for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all
13 claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights
14 of the same, and every part thereof"; and

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1 WHEREAS, the 1776 Declaration of Independence states: "That
2 to secure these rights, Governments are Instituted among
3 Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the
4 governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes
5 destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to
6 alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government,
7 laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its
8 power in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to
9 effect their Safety and Happiness"; and

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11 WHEREAS, the 1789 Constitution of the United States of
12 America contains no statement or assertion of
13 inseparability or any similar term; and

14

15 WHEREAS, the 1890 Constitution of the State of Wyoming,
16 Article 1, Section 1 states: "All power is inherent in the
17 people, and all free governments are founded on their
18 authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and
19 happiness; for the advancement of these ends they have at
20 all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter,
21 reform or abolish the government in such manner as they may
22 think proper"; and

23

1 WHEREAS, no political union ever has or ever will be
2 eternal; and

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4 WHEREAS, the inalienable right to self-government is the
5 foundation of our republic.

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7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF WYOMING, two-thirds of all the members of the two
9 houses, voting separately, concurring therein:

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11 **Section 1.** The following proposal to amend Wyoming
12 Constitution, Article 1, Section 37 is proposed for
13 submission to the electors of the State of Wyoming at the
14 next general election for approval or rejection to become
15 valid as a part of the Constitution if ratified by a
16 majority of the electors at the election:

17

18 **Article 1, Section 37. Constitution of United States**
19 **supreme law of land.**

20

21 The State of Wyoming is ~~an inseparable~~a part of the
22 federal union, and the constitution of the United States is
23 the supreme law of the land.

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2 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State shall endorse

3 the following statement on the proposed amendment:

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5 This amendment would remove the word "inseparable" from

6 Article 1, Section 37 of the Wyoming Constitution, which

7 provides: "The State of Wyoming is an inseparable part of

8 the federal union, and the constitution of the United

9 States is the supreme law of the land."

10

11

(END)