



"Serving Western Legislatures"

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 98-9

Reaffirming the Founding Documents of Sovereign States

Introduced by the Public Lands Policy Committee

WHEREAS in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, all states admitted to the Union have established constitutions and compacts ratified by Congress; and

WHEREAS all state constitutions are based on compacts which are legal instruments flowing from and directly empowered by our federal constitution; and

WHEREAS the founders of the Union envisioned all states as being separate and sovereign in the discharge of duties to their residents in accordance with their state constitutions; and

WHEREAS state constitutions necessarily reflect their sovereign nature including all the reserved, inherent, and inalienable rights guaranteed under the founding principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights ;and

WHEREAS residents of each state are entitled first and foremost to the protections of both state and federal constitutions in the exercising and enjoyment of those rights; and

WHEREAS the proper discharge of the legal and moral protections, as expressed by those rights, cannot be accomplished when the bond between a sovereign state and the federal government is severed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CSG-WEST (Council of State Governments-WEST, Serving Western Legislatures) urges Congress to respect our state constitutions and statehood compacts as inviolate instruments not to be abridged, nor offended by federal statute, regulation or policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED neither the U.S. Congress, the President, a federal agency, nor any political subdivision thereof, attempt to usurp any U.S. citizen's basic rights, as guaranteed under their state's founding documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED U.S. Congress shall act to repeal or amend any federal statute in conflict with a state's founding documents, and direct the administration to rescind or repeal all similarly egregious regulations or policies.

***ADOPTED BY THE CSG-WEST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1998
ASSEMBLED IN ANNUAL MEETING IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.***