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U.S. Term Limits Praises SD Senate State Affairs Committee for “Effectively Killing” Anti-Term Limits Measure

February 3rd, 2010, Fairfax, VA—U.S. Term Limits President Philip Blumel today praised the South Dakota Senate State Affairs Committee for “effectively killing” a proposal that would lengthen legislator term limits from 8 to 10 years.

Blumel said that Sen. Tom Hanson’s proposal, [SJR 2](#), “is now in the dustbin of bad ideas, where it belongs. Officials are not elected to draft legislation that enables them keep power longer, they are elected to address the issues that affect their constituents.”

On February 1st, [the State Affairs committee voted 7-2](#) to “defer SJR 2 to the 41st legislative day.” South Dakota is only permitted to hold 40 legislative days in a session by the State’s Constitution enacted in 2008.

“It is very fortunate that the State Affairs Committee upheld the will of South Dakotans,” said Blumel, urging South Dakotans to express their satisfaction to the members of the State Affairs Committee that voted to kill the amendment.

Voting to defer the bill were Senators Gene Abdallah, Bob Gray, Scott Heidepriem, Dave Knudson, Russell Olson, Larry Rhoden, and Nancy Turbak Berry. Blumel condemned Senators Gary Hanson and Thomas Dempster, who voted against the deferment, saying “they just don’t get it.”

Legislative term limits were just upheld in 2008 with 76 percent of the vote. The current law places four two-year terms on the State House and two four-year terms on the State Senate, and took effect in 2000.

[A 2009 poll conducted found that 68 percent of South Dakotans opposed a measure](#) weakening term limits in South Dakota that passed the Senate. (Crosstabs are [available here](#).)

“The people of South Dakota overwhelmingly support legislative term limits, and thankfully the Senate State Affairs Committee voted to uphold their will. All South Dakotans should praise their efforts, which have killed a measure that would have gutted term limits,” Blumel concluded.

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