

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM LANDERS

Greetings Honorable members of the Connecticut State Legislature, I come to you here today to give you a brief statement of support for a Connecticut Tenth Amendment Resolution.

Why is such a Tenth Amendment Resolution so important? This question lies in our ability to have state independent rights from the federal government.

Why is it important to maintain state independence from the federal government?

The answer is very complex, yet simple in nature. My best way to describe this goes back to why my family came to the shores of Massachusetts 390 years ago, before United States was even a thought.

During the time of Bloody Mary and King James I, reign of horror in England, a young lad by the name William Bradford wanted to live free and pursue a course of his own choice in how he wanted study the word of God (William's Declared Creator). Under this tyrannical monarchy orders of death and imprisonment followed those whom did not do as the monarchy and the bishop ordered. This held true for young William Bradford, whom was caught worshipping the word of God, and imprisoned for 6 months. This practice of denying one their unalienable Rights led young William to begin the journey which would eventually change the course of history.

When James I began to persecute Separatists in 1609, Bradford fled to the Netherlands, along with many members of the congregation. These Separatists went first to Amsterdam before settling at Leiden.

Shifting alignments of the European powers (due to religious differences, struggles over the monarchies and intrigues within the ruling Habsburg clan) caused the Dutch government to fear war with Catholic Spain, and to become allied with James I of England. Social pressure and even attacks on the separatists increased in the Netherlands. Their congregation's leader, John Robinson, supported the emerging idea of starting a colony. Bradford was in the midst of this venture from the beginning. The separatists wanted to remain Englishmen (although living in the Netherlands), yet wanted to get far enough away from the Church of England and the government to have some chance of living in peace. This begins the story of what would later be known as the United States of America.