

# The Appalachian Messenger



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## How Can We Lose?

By T. L. Davis



Thirty years ago I suffered my first infringement of reasonable liberty. It was a little thing, it was the passage of a seat belt law, that few thought meant very much at all. To me, it was the state laying claim to my body, determining that it was their role in my life to tell me when I should put Tab A into Slot B. Now, I have studied the statistics and I have never claimed that seat belts are not good ideas, or that they don't save lives, because it is and they do, but a law claiming that the state has a greater interest in my life than I do is absurd.

It didn't take much digging to uncover the real factors involved, which were insurance company lobbyists and the statist teaming up to pass a law that instantly achieved two goals: 1) save money for the insurance companies; 2) establish a precedent that the state has the right and the role to dictate the actions of its citizens.

Since then, I have done as much as I could to educate myself on political theory and, logically, the Constitution of the United States.

Obamacare is nothing but the seat belt law writ large. So, when we go to look at Obamacare and precedent, it all comes back to the seat belt law. It was the first salvo in what I recognized as the war against individual freedom.

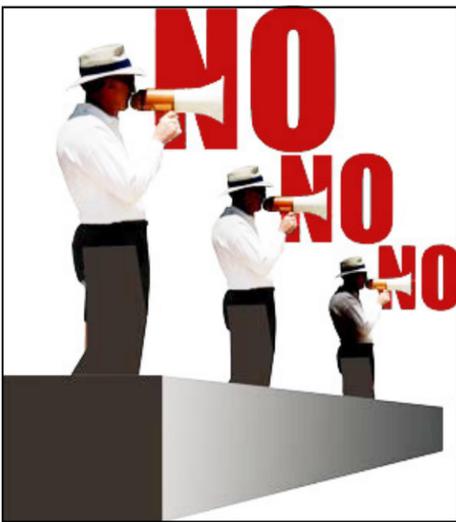
Along the way I encountered many like issues that were identifiable by a few key indicators: 1) whatever horrible wrong that needs to be remedied with law affects a minuscule minority; 2) it seems to be in general a good idea, sort of common sense and the need for this new law is vague and confusing; 3) there is a lot of money backing the passage of the new law, though it could not be coming from the few people it would affect.

This pattern, I recognized after a while, was not about the new law at all, it was about precedent and manipulation that would first, establish legal arguments for the restriction of individual liberty and second, prove methods of manipulating the masses to restrict their own liberty. From the seat belt law on, this has proved to be the methods used to pass the Patriot Act and really they didn't need much more than that to utterly destroy the concept of individual liberty except to take complete control over our lives with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

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## Your Withdrawal Of Consent

By Paul Rosenberg



Many of us, either in whole or in part, have withdrawn our consent from the current ruling regime. Up till now, however, I've never seen a form to document such a thing. Below you will find one.

I am under no impression that any ruling regime will acknowledge such a form, but I think it's a healthy exercise to specify what you consent to and what you do not.

The form should be self-explanatory.

### WITHDRAWAL AND SPECIFICATION OF CONSENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, residing within the politically dominated territory commonly known as \_\_\_\_\_, hereby withdraw my consent as specified below. I revoke any consent, express or implied, assumed or claimed by any political entity, except as specifically stated in this document.

FURTHERMORE: Money or other valuables taken from me by force, threat, or other compulsion SHALL NOT be understood to be tokens of any consent on my part, except as specifically stated in this document. Nor shall my continued residence in the territory of the above

specified political entity be taken as evidence of my consent. Nor shall filing papers, making public displays, or any other type of overt act be required of me to demonstrate my lack of consent; the endorsement of this form alone shall be sufficient.

The specific lines that I authorize are noted by my initials, which I have written by my own hand.

Therefore, I, \_\_\_\_\_, specify the following:

### SECTION ONE: FOREIGN WAR

1. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above engaging in any foreign warfare, at any place or at any time.

#### Alternatively:

1.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above engaging in foreign war ONLY when \_\_\_% of adult voters, in an honest election, vote to authorize a single, specific war, against a single, specific opponent. Each new war must be authorized in the same way.

1.2 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above engaging in foreign war ONLY when a formal and specific declaration of war has been properly approved according to the constitution of the said political entity. Furthermore, this consent shall be limited to a single, specific war, against a single, specific opponent. Each new war must be authorized in the same way.

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## Thank You, Mr. Trump, Part 1

By Robert Gore, *Financial Editor*



December 2014, Straight Line Logic (SLL) posted an article: "Can't Wait For That Next Election." The article argued the positions of the two front-runners at that time—Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton—were virtually indistinguishable.

Other than which campaign contributors get paid off, there would be very little difference between the potential presidencies of Jeb and Hillary. Commentators and opinion organs masquerading as news outlets will champion their guy or gal, and hyperventilate about perceived sins of the other side's gal or guy, but when you get right down to actual policies, there has been little difference between Republicans and Democrats for many years; they are both the parties of government. It gets bigger, spends more, piles new programs on top of failed old ones, sticks its nose anywhere on the planet it sees fit, makes more promises, and goes deeper in debt. None of that is going to change—Jeb or Hillary—and the permanent Washington oligarchy and its dependents are fine with either one.

The first of the article's two closing sentences was spot on, the second dead wrong.

The prospect of a Jeb-Hillary election should put the body politic in the same frame of mind as a restless teenager, ready to do something rash, dangerous, and destructive, just to relieve the tedium. That, unfortunately, is giving the body politic far too much credit.

A year-and-a-half later, critics denigrate Donald Trump as restless teenagers' car keys and beer. Even those more sympathetic to Trump's candidacy have identified emotional factors as the primary basis of his support (see "Much More Than Trump," SLL, and "'Dilbert' Creator's 6 Reasons Why Trump Will 'Win In A Landslide' In November," by Scott Adams). That's not incorrect, but Trump has dramatically altered the terms of debate on the playing field that all right-thinking, civic-minded Americans believe that elections should be waged: the issues. Support or oppose him, Trump has performed a public service, mentioning the unmentionables that our minders and keepers would rather avoid (for the good of the people, of course).

Immigration has been a blessing for America. Seeking an opportunity to build better lives for themselves and their families, millions have flocked to this country and helped make America great. A substantial number of immigrants to this country today are similarly motivated, but some are not. Since the Industrial Revolution heyday of immigration, the US has erected a welfare state, conducted a futile war on drugs, and intervened extensively in Latin American political affairs. Currently, some immigrants come for the freebies, some to ply the drug trade and engage in criminal acts, and some to escape turmoil and intolerable conditions in their own countries.

A nation going broke providing freebies to its own citizens cannot afford them for non-citizens.

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### How Can We Lose?

(Continued from page 1)

The Second Amendment is the only principle of individual liberty that has been able to resist this process to any degree at all.

I am not alone in this quest for individual liberty. There are thousands, perhaps millions of like-minded individuals who have come to the same conclusion, through the same routes. I don't believe I am unique, nor special for having observed this.

Here's the only place where I might not represent the views of those millions.

Having watched the absolute destruction of the concept of individual liberty, of the Western culture, of common sense, I have come to a conclusion.

The Constitution expresses the ideals of individual liberty, the individual rights that should be secured to provide liberty, but it is absolutely incapable of protecting those rights. Those who hold them dear, with or without a Constitution, provide the only means of protection. Individual rights must be defended individually and at a huge price to anyone who claims those rights and expects them to be respected.

Individual liberty can not be protected by the masses whose interest is in overcoming it and profiting from overcoming it. Sooner or later they get together to take someone's something and there is only one person left to defend it. The Constitution was written to prevent the masses from imposing their will on the individual, that is why the United States was designed as a republic rather than a democracy. But, it has failed.

An individual who does not speak the way the masses want, can be sued and eventually put in prison. An individual who does not believe what the masses believe, can be fined and eventually put in prison. An individual who owns something the masses want, can be fined and eventually put in prison and have that property taken for the masses.

This was not the intent for the future of the United States. Several amendments speak to these issues directly, but when the Constitution got in the way of the demands of the masses it was systematically redefined.

The only path toward individual liberty is simple: those who value and truly understand the purpose and utility of liberty must impose it on the masses. We are past the ability to cajole or to appeal to the courts to defend those rights. The system is corrupt and has been turned against everything that it initially proposed.

There is no America, it has been fractionalized into powerful minorities tugging at every corner of the national fabric until it comes apart. This has been instigated by those at the highest levels of government. This is the consequence of hiring a professional fire-starter as a president and CEO. The scraps of America are being fought over by a conman and a criminal. How can we lose?

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 CHEROKEE COUNTY NC  
 SHOOTING NEWS

### Your Withdrawal Of Consent (Continued from page 1)

#### SECTION TWO: TRANSNATIONAL WAR

2. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to any form of transnational war being undertaken by the political entity mentioned above, be it a "war on drugs," a "war on terror [sic]," a "war on cybercrime," or any other form of transnational war.

#### Alternatively:

2.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above engaging in transnational war ONLY when \_\_\_% of adult voters, in an honest election, vote to authorize a single, specific war, for a single, specific cause. Each new war must be authorized in the same way.

2.2 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above engaging in transnational war ONLY when a formal and specific declaration of war has been properly approved according to the constitution of the political entity referred to above. Furthermore, this consent shall be limited to a single, specific war, for a single, specific cause. Each new war must be authorized in the same way.

#### SECTION THREE: TAXATION

3. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above taking money in any form from me by any means whatsoever. I further claim that any compulsion placed upon me, my business partners, employers, or any entity owned by me, to deliver value to the political entity mentioned above shall be deemed a criminal act.

#### Alternatively:

3.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above taking money from me when authorized by a vote of \_\_\_% of adult voters in my territory, in an honest election.

3.2 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above taking money from me, but ONLY in the case when I can specify how it will be spent. In this case, I shall be given a list of line items, no less than 50 in number, and from these I shall specify how the money taken from me will be spent. This distribution of funds, specified in my hand, SHALL NOT BE CHANGED.

3.3 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above taking money from me, but ONLY up to \_\_\_% of my gross income.

3.4 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above taking money from me, but ONLY based upon an independent audit of the services I have actually used in the previous year. At no time shall my taxes exceed the fair market value of the services received. Furthermore, the data upon which "fair market value" is based shall be publicly available for comparison.

#### SECTION FOUR: PRIVATE CONDUCT

4. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above restricting, restraining, punishing, forbidding, surveilling, or in any way meddling with the private actions of individuals that cause no damage beyond their own persons or property.

#### Alternatively:

4.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above restricting, restraining, punishing, forbidding, and/or surveilling the specific private conduct of \_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_.

#### SECTION FIVE: MOVEMENT

5. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above operating, authorizing, or approving general roadblocks of any kind.

5.01 \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above operating "speed traps," using "radar detection," "aerial detection," or authorizing their employees to act as roadside predators, lying it wait for violations of rules. Further, I do NOT consent to traffic citation quotas or their like, at any time.

#### Alternatively:

5.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above operating general roadblocks (with associated searches and seizures) in the following circumstances:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION SIX: LAW

6. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above imposing or enforcing any law upon me that I have not, prior to such time, specifically consented to in writing.

6.01 \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the practice of civil forfeiture, whereby employees of the entity mentioned above seize property without personal crimes being proved.

6.02 \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to any restriction upon the rights of jurors to be told – by any means – of their rights as jurors.

#### Alternatively:

6.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above operating systems of law, provided that they do NOT – IN ANY WAY – violate, extend, embellish, or in any way override or ignore the following document(s):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION SEVEN: TECHNOLOGY

7. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the political entity mentioned above controlling, restricting, or forbidding any type of technology, save as may apply under Section Six. I further do not consent to the political entity mentioned above gathering, controlling, or distributing research funds. If, pursuant to the consents given in this document, the entity engages in research strictly of its own and at its own cost, for ends consented to in this document, I do consent to such research.

#### Alternatively:

7.1 \_\_\_ I consent to the political entity mentioned above controlling, restricting, or forbidding the specific type(s) of technology known as \_\_\_\_\_.

#### SECTION EIGHT: FULL WITHDRAWAL OF CONSENT

8. \_\_\_ I do NOT consent to the existence of the political entity mentioned above. If others consent to the existence of aforementioned entity, I will apply no coercion against their wishes.

(Continued on page 3)

**Thank You, Mr. Trump, Part 1**  
(Continued from page 1)

A nation that criminalizes drugs creates an economic risk premium for dealing in those drugs, which is especially attractive for the relatively impoverished in Latin America. A nation that helps make conditions intolerable in

other countries may be confronted with escaping refugees (as Europe has discovered). Those are simple, indisputable facts.

There has been no shortage of commentators pointing out these facts—for years, even decades—but by definition, even if their audiences were in the millions they were “fringe.” Back in late 2014, immigration reform—a “path to citizenship,” de facto amnesty, and meaningless promises of tighter border security—was the prevailing mantra, chanted by both parties’ candidates, endorsed by all right-thinking pundits as necessary to secure the increasingly important Latino vote (support from Republicans was paradoxical—most immigrants vote for Democrats). There would be no immigration issue because dissenting views were marginalized or suppressed, and the “solution” to the problem was a done deal regardless of who was elected.

Then Donald Trump called Mexican immigrants rapists and proposed building a wall at the border, funded by Mexico. The epithet and proposal were outrageous, but the concerns of millions of Americans had been ignored or dismissed as racist and xenophobic. It took something outrageous to get those concerns on the table and force the Cloud People to pay attention. They did so not out of any solicitude for the unwashed, the Dirt People, but because Trump jumped to the top of the polls. Immigration will be a front burner issue through the general election, and attacks on Trump supporters by Mexican-flag-waving thugs will only help his cause. He doesn’t even have to say: “What did I tell you?” It’s implied.

Like open immigration, free trade has been distorted beyond recognition by governments. In a free world, a decision either to migrate or trade across the artificial construct known as a border would be recognized as an act of self-interest that should not be hindered. Today’s decidedly unfree world means that so-called free trade arrangements augment the power and wealth of governments and their cronies at the expense of everyone else, just as “open immigration” expands welfare states with resultant political and economic advantages for the few.

Again, with rhetoric and proposals designed to roil the elite and agitate the electorate, Trump has exposed the sham of “free” trade. Real free trade among two or more countries would not be negotiated in secret and add thousand-page agreements, plus thousands more pages of implementing regulations, to a world already drowning in laws and regulations. A real free trade agreement would reduce laws and regulations—tariffs and trade barriers—and there would be no need to negotiate it in secret.

Real free trade increases the US’s economic well-being. By definition, two parties don’t engage in voluntary trade unless both parties benefit. However, present trade agreements have facilitated outsourcing of manufacturing and jobs. David Stockman persuasively argues that they are part of a one-two punch, the other punch being anti-deflationary monetary policies, that have frozen real incomes for decades (see his four-part series, “Losing Ground in Flyover America.”)

Trump has broken through the mainstream narrative, highlighting the ongoing deterioration of the American economy and resonating with the millions who have been living through it. SLL has argued that since 2000, we’ve been in the midst of a Humungous Depression, an argument not confirmed by Wall Street’s and Washington’s statistic mills, but which finds support in Trump’s ascent. (Interested readers are referred to the linked article and SLL’s Debtonomics Archive.) Trump has struck a chord with his criticism of the economy, and by implication, statistic mills, equity markets, and the media that paint a much rosier picture than the one his supporters see.



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**Your Withdrawal Of Consent**  
(Continued from page 2)

**SECTION NINE: REVISION**

I reserve the right to modify my consent in the future. However, in order to show a decent respect to the opinions of mankind, it shall be my obligation to make my modified wishes known by posting a form similar to this one, or some other clear and substantive document accomplishing the same end, to a public internet page or other public forum as conditions allow. I shall further make copies of the document available to parties expressing a legitimate interest in it.

**SECTION TEN: CONCLUSION**

ACCORDINGLY, if the above-named entity, its assigns, successors, or any party claiming similar rights fails to honor the wishes that I have specified in this document, they shall henceforth be regarded as criminal entities.

**AFFIRMATION**

IN AFFIRMATION OF THE ABOVE, I have set my hand to this solemn agreement on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Further identification (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Further identification (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**June 18—Tri-State Model Railroaders Open House**, Mineral Bluff, GA 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Come and see a model railroad layout depicting Copper Basin Railroad in the early. Learn how railroads played such an important role in the development of the Tri-State area and

the unique history of the restored historic brick depot. From Hwy 60, to 150 Railroad Avenue, Mineral Bluff. Contact 828-361-2210 for more information.

**June 18—Cherokee NC ARES Social Brunch**, Murphy, NC, 10 am. This is an opportunity for a social gathering and it will not involve any formal presentations or training. All those interested in amateur radio or just a good meal and fellowship are invited to attend. XYLs welcome! Meeting at Main Street USA, Hiwassee Street, Murphy.

**July 12—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting**, Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street (behind the courthouse) in Murphy.

**July 12—DAV Monthly Meeting**, Blairsville, GA, 7 pm – 8 pm. The Disabled American Veterans meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Veterans Center. Held at the Veterans Building, 78 Old Blue Ridge Hwy. Blairsville. For more information please contact Mike Ruback 954-249-2707.