🇺🇸 TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

THOSE PESKY SMALL STATES ARE JUST TOO POWERFUL! (OUR FOUNDERS FACED A SIMILAR DILEMMA!)

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 **February 17, 2016**

Here's what provoked me:

Hey SB! Did you see the opinion by Cotterell in today's paper? I don't know anything about the guy, but it seems to me he's exposing his political or intellectual "underbelly." He thinks that insignificant parts of the country are given relatively too much political clout in our presidential election process. What do you have to say about that? **– Stefano Bachovich** – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."

Here's my response:

Those Pesky Small States Are Just Too Powerful! (Our Founders Faced a Similar Dilemma!)

Bill Cotterell's Guest Opinion questions the wisdom of having the earliest primaries in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada – "a nice geographic spread, but hardly representative of the nation" ("Small states have too much control for President," February 15). He may be right regarding diversity issues, and he acknowledges some disadvantages of starting in "New York, California, Texas, and Illinois." But he tips us off to his preferences when he concludes: "…how many town cafes, high school gyms and barns do we want to look at? Beaches and big city skylines make better backdrops."

This debate reminds me of the dilemma our founders faced while forming the United States Congress and the Electoral College. In order to keep the smaller states from being "bullied," each state was granted equal power in the United States Senate. The House of Representatives was given representation based on population. This carried over to the Electoral process when small states were given the same slight advantage, relative to population, in the number of electors they could claim.

On balance, I like the idea of respecting the small states. I think some of Cotterell's politics, or perhaps intellectual elitism, found its way into his writing?