

Tech Wire

How States Talk Back to Washington and Strengthen American Federalism

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Effective federalism requires that state officials be able to secure relief from national directives that impose undue burdens on state governments or improper constraints on state policy discretion. Many analysts focus on clearly legitimate and occasionally effective tactics such as lobbying or lawsuits. Some activists consider discredited tactics such as nullification that are a nonstarter in the 21st century. In a new paper, Wake Forest professor John Dinan calls attention to various ways that states talk back to Washington using tactics that go beyond lobbying and litigation but fall short of nullification.

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