

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland and Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee members,

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective on HJR2 from the perspective of an Ohio Plumbing Contractor.

Due to California's drought conditions; President Bush signed HR6 (Energy Policy Act) which had been approved by congress. This policy act served to mandate that all new toilets would cut water consumption by half (from 3.2 gallons per flush down to 1.6 gallons per flush). My customers frequently get angry with me that we must replace their excellent flushing older toilet with a new one that must be flushed two times; yet leads to frequent clogs down the drain line. There is already talk of mandating poorer flushing toilets which consume 1.28 gallons per flush - and soon after that; 1 gallon per flush. Solutions to California's drought conditions should be left up to the California legislature to implement in California; not become national policy that affects Ohioans.

On April 16, 2015 the EPA passed an administrative rule which required all newly manufactured water heaters to be more energy efficient and add more insulation. Now all new water heaters cost 25-35 percent more money and are two inches taller and wider. I field angry comments when customers find out about the price increase and space requirements due to these new rules. On several occasions; replacing a 50 gallon water heater with a new 50 gallon water heater proved impossible because it would not fit in the same space as before. They had no choice but to have me install a smaller 40 gallon water heater at a higher cost. That 25-35 percent cost increase is essentially an unfunded mandate forced upon an Ohio Consumer. They have no choice and no effective means to combat this regulatory overreach by the EPA.

Our framers approved Article V in it's current form by unanimous consent. Is it even remotely possible that these wise and forward looking patriots inserted the Article V Convention of States method for amending the constitution to be a trojan horse, self-destruct button - a virus within our constitution, that once activated; will destroy our constitution and the very fabric of our Republic? Our opponents would have you believe that our Article V Convention of States should not happen because it will lead to the destruction of our current constitution.

I believe that it is the only safe and constitutional method to save our republic, our State and our people from tyranny by the overreaching Federal Government into every area of our lives.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Steve Jones