

Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee Hearing 3/28/17  
Summary of Testimony of Mike Mowry, Volunteer Recruiter, Ashland, Ohio

Thank you Madam Chair, my name is Mike Mowry, and I am here to speak in favor of HJR2. I am a general contractor from Ashland, Ohio and am a volunteer with the Convention of States Project in Ohio with the responsibility of recruiting volunteer leaders for our state organizations. In coming into contact with these volunteers I hear the multiple reasons that these supporters are in support of the Convention of States Project.

Most of the supporters in our data base are aware of the fact that Ohio is one of the states that has passed a balanced budget amendment, but they agree that a balanced budget amendment is not by itself adequate to repair the damage done to federalism over the last 100 years.

The Convention of States resolution addresses three topics of consideration by an article V convention for the purpose of making amendments to the U.S. Constitution that comprises the essential language of HJR2 as well as the resolutions now passed by both chambers in ten states (North Dakota became the tenth state last week when the North Dakota Senate followed the North Dakota House in passing the Convention of States Project resolution, this following the lead of Georgia, Alaska, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Indiana, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arizona).

The three topics of consideration for proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution (the Convention of States Project resolution) that are passed in those states are as stated in HJR2, they state that they (the respective legislatures):

***“hereby appl(y) to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a Convention of the States limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress of the United States”***

James Madison wrote in Federalist 51 that

***“In the compound republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.”***

Many of us feel that this “double security”, first eroded by the passage of the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment, has been eroded further by the Federal institutions in all three branches of the Federal government (four branches if you count the administrative regulatory state), usurping powers not granted to the Federal Government by the representatives that wrote, nor the people that ratified the U.S. Constitution.

It is many of our beliefs that any moderation of the trend to centralization of government has been, and will continue to be transitory, and that without the intervention of our state governments this usurpation of power is self-perpetuating and self-enlarging.

It is many of our beliefs that is only by by proposing and passing amendments to restore the originally intended balance of power between the states and the central government can adequate power be restored to the representatives closest to the people, our state legislators. We respectfully ask that the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee pass resolution HJR2 from committee so that the Ohio House can consider, and pass HJR2 pursuant to Ohio becoming one of the states participating in restoring limited government and self-governance to the people of Ohio.