

**Senator Matt Huffman**

**12th District**

**S.J.R. 1 – Sponsor Testimony**

**Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee**

**March 1, 2017**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Uecker, Ranking Member Yuko, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for offering me the chance to provide sponsor testimony on SJR 1, which would call for a Convention of States under Article V of the United States Constitution.

The national debt of the United States continues to grow at an alarming and unfettered rate—currently $18 trillion. At the same time, the federal government’s power is steadily increasing, yet its efficiency and attention to constituents seems to diminish every day. While Congress is deeply entrenched in Washington politics, our states have firsthand experience with the debt crisis and the effects of burdensome regulations to businesses and local governments.

As a check on such issues, Article V of the United States Constitution allows us to call for a Convention of States to better define the power, jurisdiction, and fiscal responsibility of the federal government. At this gathering, states may propose amendments to the Constitution. In order for a Convention of States to be called, at least two-thirds of all state legislatures must pass applications requesting this.

I am introducing SJR 1 to serve as an application to the United States Congress for a Convention of States for the purpose of proposing amendments imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and imposing term limits on federal officials and Members of Congress.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions regarding my testimony or legislation, I would be happy to answer them now.

Key Provisions of the Bill

* Apply to Congress for a Convention of States under Article V of the Constitution
* Amendments entertained must be related to the following topics:
  + Imposing fiscal restraints on federal government
  + Limiting power/jurisdiction of federal government
  + Imposing term limits for Congressional members and other federal officials