

**Testimony before the**  
**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Hearing on H. J. R. No. 1

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Roger David Gibb  
5155 Farmridge Way  
Mason, OH 45040

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the committee:

My name is Roger Gibb and I have lived in Mason, Ohio for the past 23 years. My wife Carolyn and I have 5 children. I work for Procter and Gamble as a clinical statistician in its global health care research division.

Thomas Jefferson famously said, “When the people fear the government, that's tyranny; when the government fears the people, that's freedom.” Right now I **fear** what I see the federal government doing. The federal government’s alarming behavior can be grouped under 3 general headings:

- **#1 Fiscal irresponsibility:** The federal government is now \$29 trillion in debt and has about \$150 trillion in unfunded liabilities. The federal government has not held itself to a balanced budget in 20 years. The president of the United States and members of congress for the most part seem to be completely detached from financial reality and oblivious to the concept that money is not free. If ordinary citizens managed their budget like the federal government, they would go financially bankrupt in short order. I **fear** the federal government’s fiscal recklessness and the crushing consequences that eventually will fall on my family, my grandchildren and our country.
- **#2 Federal Overreach:** Our country was founded on principles of limited government and separation of powers to prevent the concentration of too much power in any one person or governing body. However, today we see our president and congress exercising power not granted in the Constitution and never intended by our country’s founders. For example:
  - Dictating what is taught in public schools, including transgender use of bathrooms.
  - Prohibiting the mining and burning of coal.
  - Forcing citizens to be vaccinated or risk losing their opportunity to be employed and provide for their families.

The majority party in congress now is threatening to federalize the electoral system.

I **fear** how the federal government is growing ever larger and stronger and how it imposes its will on the American people with power it was never granted by our constitution.

- **#3 Corrupt Career Politicians:** Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century few members of congress sought reelection and the turnover in congress was about 50%. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century the turnover has been only about 15%. This explains why there are so many members of congress who have served in office 20, 30 and even 40 years. Power corrupts and when it comes to congress, time in office translates into power. Even a casual observer cannot deny that Congress is rife with corruption.

I **fear** how career politicians have corrupted our federal government.

I support the Convention of States movement because it gives me **hope** that we can reign in our out-of-control federal government. It will empower the states to propose and ratify amendments to the constitution that:

- 1) Require the federal government to be fiscally responsible (think balanced budget amendment)
- 2) Rebuff the federal government's overreach and return power to the states where it belongs, and
- 3) Impose term limits on congress to send the professional politicians home

I return to the statement of Thomas Jefferson: "When the people fear the government, that's tyranny; when the government fears the people, that's freedom." By and large **fear** is on the lips of the people of Ohio when they speak of what the federal government is doing. You and your colleagues in the General Assembly now have the power, with other state legislatures across the country, to reverse the downward trajectory of American history. By supporting HJR1 you will enable Ohio to help invoke an Article V Convention of the States to strengthen our constitution, save our country and restore the **hope** of the American people. Please support HRJ1. Thank you.