

Testimony of Dale Maris in support of HJR No. 1

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

My name is Dale Maris from Cleves, OH, House District 29. I serve as a Convention of States Regional Captain in Southwest Ohio. I am a retired manager and engineer in the Information Technology Industry.

I believe my family history reflects all the goodness and great qualities that our country has to offer. An early ancestor on my father's side lived in England where he was fined and finally sent to prison for his religious beliefs. In 1683 he moved his family to America to be free to practice his religious beliefs. He purchased a large tract of land from William Penn and settled in Springfield, PA. He was an active member of the 'Friends' community, also known as Quakers, and served in many public roles, such as Justice of the Peace, a Judge on the Courts, and a pastor in his church.

My mother's German family came to America and lived in Kansas. My uncle grew up on a farm in central Kansas where they lived in a dugout for over a year. He loved the outdoors and wondered about the stars and planets as a young child. With the aid of his mother's funds from selling eggs for extra money, he hitchhiked to Wisconsin to attend college. This led to a career as an Astrophysicist from Harvard where he taught, researched, and discovered new theories about stars and comets and helped put our first rockets into space. Where else can an immigrant from a rural farm fulfill his potential but in America?

I had the freedom with my career to use my mathematical and logic skills to develop an innovative computer system. This design advanced the industry establishing cutting edge software used by many companies worldwide. This provided a good life for my family.

Mankind has never seen the advancements in civilization like those that have taken place here in the United States. A people free of government control, existing in a peaceful, Judeo-Christian society can advance mankind well beyond a daily fight for survival, which sadly, I've witnessed firsthand in other countries during my international business travels.

Today, I am sickened with fear that our economic climate and culture is plagued with the notion that our freedoms and capitalistic nature are no longer of value to this country. My stepson will likely lose his job as an airline pilot due to his opposition to a Covid vaccine that he fears may inflame a preexisting health concern. He has already battled Covid. My granddaughter recently left her nursing program for similar reasons. These are only two but very powerful examples to the destructive nature of government overreach. Such flagrant disregard for human freedom runs counter to the environment that fostered my ancestors into prosperity and love of country.

I truly believe in the Convention of States as the correct and peaceful manner to get our country back to the free and productive country that it once was. We must use the Constitution and Article V to restore our country's freedoms that allow our citizens to continue their creative and productive ways that benefit all of mankind. Please pass HJR 1 on to the House for a full vote where a broader consensus can decide its direction. Thank you for your service to Ohio and for the opportunity to provide my testimony and letting me tell my story.