

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking member Kelly;

Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of HJR1 in the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Steve Jones and I live in Mason, House District 54. I own a professional plumbing business, and prior to that was I was a member of the clergy.

Some years ago I became frustrated with my powerlessness in effecting the slow growth of Federal intrusion into the affairs of my plumbing business and civilian life. I felt that my efforts to organize opposition to federal policies was like playing “whack a mole” with issues and a futile effort since I had no **real** voice in federal affairs. I was preparing to live in a hole in the ground and let the country descend into chaos and tyranny without me...I was introduced to the Citizens for Self-Governance and the Convention of States project which filled me with hope that there was a solution as big as the problem; a solution that was based on the constitution and promoting an offensive - rather than defensive - strategy to preserve my self-governance rather than accepting tyranny. Our opponents, (which are vocal, but few in number), would encourage you to play a better game of “whack a mole” - one issue at a time, rather than go on the offense in restoring the constitutional balance between state and federal governance. They base their arguments on the myth that the constitutional convention was a “runaway convention” exceeding their authority. They ignore the truth that 10 states sent authorized delegates to draft a new constitution as the 2nd Annapolis convention resolution recommended. I would like to issue this challenge to the honorable committee members:

1. Study the first and second Annapolis Conventions and see whether my assertions are true.
2. Ask each person who testifies in opposition:
 - Have you read HJR1?
 - As written; what specific objections do you have to **HJR1**?

Our opponents will dazzle and confuse you with quotations from venerable founders; however, the bottom line is this: the framers knew that the federal government could become destructive to their own ends of individual liberty. They knew that the federal government would not restrain their own power and jurisdiction. They knew that the states would need to band together to protect their own citizens from “a long train of abuses and usurpations”. For these reasons, they gave the states the authority to pursue a call for an Article V convention of states to propose amendments to the US constitution and reign in the Feds. For these reasons, I ask you to vote in favor of HJR1.

Thank you for your service to me and the citizens of Ohio.

Steve Jones