

Testimony of Edward E. Mulholland in support of HJR No.1

TO: House S&LG Committee:

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

Let me begin by thanking you for your service. In today's heated political environment, it takes courage to stay in the fight.

My name is Ed Mulholland. I live in Zanesville, Ohio, House District 97, with my wife of 32 years. I have two sons: one at Ohio University and one working in New Albany. I know the state well and I am proud to call this my home!

My support for this resolution stems from my appreciation for the precarious nature of freedom. Americans have enjoyed the freedoms and bounties of our great nation for generations and now we seem prone to take them for granted. I was fortunate, however, to gain an appreciation of our freedoms as a young Cavalry Lieutenant stationed in Germany near the Fulda Gap.

I walked along the border between East and West Germany. I saw the guard towers watching for freedom seekers attempting to escape the iron curtain.

My defensive position, at the head of the 3rd Armored Division, was inside the 1 K Zone, overlooking the fence. There, I enjoyed the gratitude of the locals, who understood the precariousness of their freedom as they lived in the shadow of that fence which represented the ugliness of an all-powerful government exercising absolute control over its citizens.

This experience taught me that freedom is indeed precarious, and I worry that we are slowly losing ours to a leviathan federal government which is clearly never satisfied. Our country gets more and more divided with each new incursion upon our freedoms; that division could ultimately destroy us.

More rules, more regulation, more taxes... all from a self-glorifying, entrenched regime 400 miles away. How can they possibly know the needs of Ohioans better than you, who live and work and raise your families here?

This resolution is not a democrat or republican issue. This is a "who decides" issue. It is an opportunity to restore the balance of power, returning important decisions to the state level where citizens can have greater influence.

If you share my concerns that the ever-growing federal bureaucracy has and continues to erode our individual freedoms. Then you must agree that it is time for states to stand up for their citizens and restore the balance of power. The founders foresaw these problems and gave us the convention of states to correct them.

If you believe, as I do, that the US constitution is a truly historic document of epic importance, written by men of incredible wisdom. Then you must also accept the wisdom of Article V.

Earlier I thanked you for the courage you have shown by your service as a representative. Now I challenge that courage by imploring you to take a stand in defense of states' rights and the US Constitution.

There are those among us, unwilling to take bold action because the outcome is not guaranteed. I say they share a legacy with those, so aptly described by Theodore Roosevelt, as "timid souls who will never know victory nor defeat".

The founders faced a far more difficult choice. Thank God they did not allow a fear of the unpredictable to dissuade them from their righteous cause. Will you earn the right to share their legacy?

I urge you to support HJR 1 and pass it on to the House for a full vote.

Thank you.