

Testimony of Matthew Winter in support of HJR 1

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

First, thank you all for taking this bill up and taking the time to hear from dignitaries and grassroots advocates, like myself.

My name is Matt Winter from Canal Fulton, Ohio, House District 38. I am 64 years old and retired from my accounting profession of 39 years in the power generation industry. I'm now driving a school bus for the local school board, volunteering where I can, enjoying my grandchildren, and reconnecting with the community, at large.

The country has reached a dangerous precipice, where our inalienable rights are being trampled and we are about to slip off the edge. Our forefathers painstakingly designed and implemented a system of *citizen governance* that carefully balanced power across the various entities necessary for a vibrant and safe society; ***including statehood.***

The wisdom of these great men was endless for they foresaw that the nature of over zealous and evil-minded folks was to accumulate power and wield it over the unsuspecting. So they gave us **Article V**. It is part of the Constitution. *They expected us to use it!* ***It is not only our right but our duty to use it!***

World history is littered with the men, women, and institutions that sought to so control others that they were not allowed to speak, think, or even feel freely. There are countless examples of this in our society today. The Federal Government has vastly outgrown its original intent and must be reigned back, at this time or it will forever creep into being one of the monsters of human history.

We did not become the greatest nation on earth, the one more folks aspire to than any other, the one that holds the most promise and opportunity for the individual, the one that inspired innovation in a way never envisioned before, that propelled the world into modernity, in order to backslide into mediocrity by allowing the federal government to make our daily decisions for us. Who better to decide what is best or how to spend a dollar; them or us?

The **Declaration of Independence** and **Constitution of the United States** has successfully survived and surpassed these evil intentions because it allows for individual freedom, spirit, liberty, and the pursuit of one's own dreams. It has lasted these 250 years because it was founded on the principle of self-government. ***Let's take it back.***

Respectfully,

Matt Winter
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