

## Testimony of Christopher Eppich in Support of H.J.R. No. 1

### OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Committee:  
Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of H.J.R. No. 1 in the State and Local Government Committee.

As a long-time resident of the State of Ohio and previous small business owner, I have watched as this country has devolved from our Constitution Founders' vision of a collection of independent citizens under a representative form of government to a country that more closely resembles a socialistic European nation. Our country has increasingly moved to a centrally run, authoritarian state with dictates from our "Overlords" in Washington D.C.

#### PROBLEM:

I have always been a strong believer in the "Rights of the Individual" and the Freedoms granted to us by the U.S. Constitution. But we all have been witness to the rapid dissolution of our rights and freedoms as citizens of this great country. Our Federal Government now mandates every part of our lives from what light bulbs or faucets to use in our homes, to the numerous regulations that make our cars more fuel efficient but much less safe. There virtually is no aspect of our lives not impacted from the whims of our national leaders. Our leaders now rule over us with a self-righteous demeanor. They are no longer responsive to "We the People". Without limits on their term in federal office, these individuals and representatives become singularly focused on currying favor only from those who can help them maintain their position of power. Their love of power lead them to only work for themselves, ignoring their oath of office and constituents.

Decisions by our political leaders in Washington are not made on our behalf, but often in spite of, our wishes. The plight of the "American Citizen" is no longer of concern to the Ruling Class in Washington. The erosion, or more realistically, the elimination of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment has left us without a voice. The citizens of this state are represented by 16 individuals in the U.S. House of Representatives. That amounts to one representative for every 732,000 Ohioans and the two U.S. Senators have over 11,714,000 constituents. These ratios render our "Self-Governance" completely useless. Moreover, the description of a Republic form of government can hardly apply to this situation. Additionally, the passage of the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1913 removed the last leverage point the states held in the federal government. With the direct election of US Senators, the individual state governments were now relegated 2<sup>nd</sup> fiddle to the special interest groups who realistically keep our federal politicians in power. The end result is that our representatives in the federal government have little to no concern for the betterment of the average citizen's life.

- **It is time** to put an end to this counter-productive situation.
- **It is time** to bring the power and decision making back closer to the citizens of Ohio and our elected representatives in the State Legislature.
- **It is time** to rein in our federal government.

SOLUTION:

A Convention of the States, as prescribed in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, can install some limits on the “Out of Touch”, “Out of Control” Federal Government. The passage of this Resolution in the Ohio House and Senate will enable our State to participate in the Convention. Proposing amendments to ultimately bring back the power and control to state governments is much closer to “We the People”.

For these reasons I ask you to vote in favor of HJR1. Thank you for your service to me and the citizens of Ohio.