

Testimony of Chris Colvin in support of HJR No.1

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

My name is Chris Colvin and I live in Waynesville Ohio. I am a software engineer by profession and I am speaking to you today as an active member of the Waynesville Ohio Village Council. As a proponent of the Convention of States I introduced ordinance 2018-053 which was passed by our Council as a nonbinding resolution in support of an Article V Convention of States. We passed this resolution because Waynesville Council believes it is the only remedy to return our communities fiscal resources and governance to our citizens. The premise of our legislation was that local government is the best form of government that provides essential services with direct accountability to the people we serve. Waynesville was the first community in Ohio to pass the Convention of States resolution and other municipalities are following our lead with the community of Blanchester also passing the same resolution. The people can now understand that the bulk of their property and income taxes leave their community to the federal and state government with little revenue left to their local government. The people now understand that local government legislates for grant money from the federal and state government by competing against other communities to win back funding necessary to provide the critical infrastructure and services required. It is my firm conviction that local legislators should be the most engaged on this issue and champion this message to their community to be as resilient as possible as our Founding Father envisioned. I tell local legislators that the current system is unsustainable and that the Article V Convention of States is coming. To be left out of the process, no matter how you feel about it, is unwise and negligent of our sworn oath to our citizens so we need to engage on this issue at the local and state level. I am here petitioning you to represent my community and the State of Ohio in this process. Waynesville passed a nonbinding resolution but you have the power of a binding resolution to ensure that Ohio is properly represented at an Article V Convention of States. The Republic of the United States of America is continuously eroding as we wish things would change while the centralized government continues to take advantage of us. We need an Article V Convention of States to force this issue and find out what the state and local government needs to do to move forward. The process is clear on how to proceed and I am asking you to support House Joint Resolution 1 to move us forward to a full vote by the House. I greatly appreciate your service and look forward to working with you with the support of my community.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.