

Testimony of Shirley Fleet Train in support of HJR No.1

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman St. John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the State and Local Government Committee,

I am a retired teacher from Toledo, Ohio; my husband and I chose to retire in Bellbrook, Ohio in 2007. I grew up in Tenafly, New Jersey where my parents' choices to serve their community were wonderful role models for me. My father, Clifton Fleet, served as a volunteer fireman for nine years and as mayor for four years. I'm sure that my interest in government was a result of many candlelight dinner table discussions. The discussions were vibrant and lengthy, continuing until the candles needed to be snuffed out!

One evening, my parents discussed an offer from a state official for my father to run for a statewide office. I was surprised that my father would turn down the offer and I said so. My Dad explained that he wanted nothing to do with politics at a state level. He had seen the corruption of some politicians from afar and he knew he would be giving up a good job with General Motors New Departure Ball Bearings as a mechanical engineer, for a risky future because he would not succumb to unlawful practices. Born in 1905, my Dad was a man of principles. If he were living today, he would be horrified at the fraud in our government. I'm sure that he would feel the way I do: there should be term limits, representatives should not look at a government job as a lifetime career. Representatives should not go to D.C. to get rich, but most do get rich while they are there, disproportionately rich when compared to their government salaries.

I love our country and I have enormous respect for the Constitution our forefathers wrote. They understood the sinful nature of man and they recognized that there might come a time when there would be a need to amend it. But they also recognized that those in power would not want to give up their power; they provided for that situation in Article 5 which allows for a Convention of States (COS). I see the COS as the only way to restore morality and give back power to the people. The government must live within a budget; term limits must be enacted to get rid of those who do not govern well; power must be given back to the states when it is not given to the federal government or to individuals.

I am not strong enough to be a fireman (incorrect language I know), and I have no desire to be an elected politician, but I hope to be an active volunteer for COS. I hope that you too will vigorously support HJR1 and pass it on to the House for a full vote.

Thank you for your service to Ohio and for providing me the opportunity for testimony.