



April 18, 2023

Chair Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer and Ranking Member Mohamed. My name is Mike Knisley, and I have the honor of representing the men and women who put hard hats on everyday working to build Ohio's future. As the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council I am propud to represent over 100,000 highly skilled union construction workers from 14 different trades councils throughout the state of Ohio. I am here today to testify against House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1.

The history of Labor Unions in the United States dates back to just five years after The Constitution was ratified, when workers realized that using their collective voices allowed for better wages and safer working conditions. Simply put, labor unions were founded on the democratic principle that the voice of the working majority should not be overruled by a small ruling minority. HJR 1 would end majority rule in Ohio as we know it, which strips Ohio voters, and my members, of the freedom to decide their future.

It also sets an unrealistic threshold for bonding issues to pass. Since 1980, Ohioans have voted on 18 bond issues that directly created work for our members through constructing public projects or improving Ohio's infrastructure. If the proposed language were to be put in place, only 8 in of those 18 issues would have passed resulting in substationally less work for our members and hard working Ohioans being left without a job.

Democratic principles are enshrined at the foundation of the labor movement, that no one voice is more valuable than another, but a collection of voices can create tangible change. Our dedicated men and women go to work each day to build the Ohio we are all so proud of. They are active members of their community, pay their taxes, and engage in the democratic process each time there is an election. Politicians, special interests, and lobbyists do not have a right to subvert the will of the people, the will of our members.

With that, I urge a no vote on HJR1 and as always I encorage any member of the committee to contact me for additional information or to answer any questions they may have.

Respectively,

Mike Knisley

Executive Secretary – Treasurer
Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council
41 S. High St. Suite 2325
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-221-3682