

HJR 1 Testimony

Chair Plummer, Vice-Chair Hillyer & Ranking Member Mohammed:

My name is Dorsey Hager. I am the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council. The "Columbus Building Trades" is comprised of 21 local unions and district councils representing 18,000 highly skilled tradesmen and women in Columbus and Central Ohio.

The Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council strongly opposes HJR 1 and SJR 2. The 60 percent threshold for ballot initiatives undermines the sacred principle of "One Person One Vote." These ideas are unnecessary, unfair, undemocratic and unpopular. Ending majority rule in Ohio as we know it is a bad short and long term idea. These proposals shred our Constitution and will hurt workers in the trades and undermine our efforts to put Ohio's economy on the right track for jobs, development and prosperity.

We oppose these proposals because our members want the freedom to make decisions that affect their lives, and ballot initiatives let us exercise that freedom. Getting rid of ballot initiatives means more power for politicians and less power for voters to decide the issues that matter most.

It is my privilege to represent the hard working members of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council and as their representative, I am proud to stand before you today in opposition of HJR 1 and SJR 2.

