



**Buckeye  
Firearms  
Association**



**SPORTSMEN'S  
ALLIANCE**

**Memo**

**To: Chairman Plummer, Members of the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee  
Senator Rob McColley**

**From: Rob Sexton**

**Date: April 26, 2023**

**Re: Support for SJR 2**

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee, given the length of last week's hearings on the House version of this legislation I will testify as a proponent of Senate Joint Resolution 2 for both Buckeye Firearms Association and the Sportsmen's Alliance at the same time.

A summary of my testimony last week is that the Constitution should be reserved for only the most important issues. Unfortunately, in my 28 years of experience with ballot issues across the country, ballot issues have nearly entirely been won by the side with the most money. This fact leaves Ohio's Constitution especially vulnerable to being overrun by out of state special interests with unlimited funds, that would be able to force their values on us.

The 60% threshold would be a deterrent to these types of groups. And if they did decide to come here, Ohioans would have at least a fighting chance to fend off their attack despite their financial advantages. SJR 2 does not change the threshold for statutory initiatives or referenda, preserving a pathway for the people to have redress. But it does prevent our Constitution from being stuffed full of special interest specifics better addressed in statute.

In my testimony last week I pointed out that raising the bar to 60% would help preserve our rights to protect ourselves and our families. And it would help protect our rights to hunt, fish and trap. Both of these rights have been attacked in other states on the ballot. Hunting has been attacked twice by the national animal rights lobby twice here in Ohio, and there have already been attempts here to launch an attack on our rights to keep and bear arms on the ballot.

But this legislation is about much more than any one specific issue. And its benefits go much farther than a right wing agenda or a left wing agenda. No matter your political bent, SJR 2, protects the Constitution, ensuring that only truly foundational principles are dealt with in this essential document. That is a benefit to everyone. For these reasons we appreciate Senator McColley's introduction of this important legislation.

Both Buckeye Firearms Association and the Sportsmen's Alliance request that this committee quickly move SJR2 for consideration by the full House. We are confident that SJR 2 will pass the House if scheduled for a vote. This subject has been thoroughly vetted, and it is unlikely that any further deliberations would reveal any additional arguments for or against.

I am prepared to answer any questions from committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.