

Columbus Building Trades Council

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Testimony of Dorsey Hager, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council Before the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee In Opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 2

Chair Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring and Ranking Member DeMora, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to SJR 2.

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 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. This is especially true of bond issues which directly impact jobs for my members and income for their families.

That’s why it’s so disheartening to have read recent news articles which expose the fact that an out-of-state billionaire is bankrolling efforts to take rights away from my members and other Ohio workers through SJR2.

So let me get this straight. An idea introduced to protect the **Ohio** constitution, our constitution from special interests is actually being promoted by a group funded by an **Illinois** billionaire who’s trying to change Ohio’s Constitution.

I hope this Committee will put my members and Ohio workers first, and reject efforts by this out-of-state special interest group to hijack the Ohio Constitution.

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 to SJR 2.