

**Testimony of Timothy Stem, President  
Tri-County Building & Construction Trades Council  
Before the House Committee on Constitutional Resolutions  
Submitted in Opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 2**

Chairman Plummer, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to SJR 2. My name is Timothy Stem, and I represent the 3200 members of the 22 trades unions affiliated with the Tri-County Building Trades in Summit, Portage and Medina Counties.

We are hardworking bricklayers, boilermakers, cement masons, electrical workers, elevator constructors, glaziers, heat & frost insulators, iron workers, laborers, millwrights, operating engineers, painters, plasterers, plumbers & pipefitters, roofers, sheet metal workers, sprinklerfitters, teamsters and tile layers.

For nearly a century, the Tri-County Building Trades have been at the center of economic growth and development in our region. We have collaborated with business, local and state government leaders for the betterment of our workers, their families and communities.

SJR 2 and HJR 1 violate the spirit of collaboration that has been a hallmark of the success the building trades have achieved in our Tri-County region and throughout the State of Ohio.

By raising the threshold for passage of constitutional amendments to 60 percent, these resolutions would not only violate the sacred principle of one person, one vote, but would also jeopardize future bond issues that our members and communities rely on for good jobs and economic growth.

We have read articles about out-of-state interests funding efforts to pass these supermajority resolutions. As you consider HJR 2 today, we hope you will put the interests of working Ohioans first, and oppose passage of such supermajority proposals.

Thank you.



Timothy R Stem

President  
Tri County Building Trades  
Akron, Ohio