

Western Reserve Building Trades

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Testimony of Marty Loney, President

Western Reserve Building Trades

Before the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee

In Opposition to SJR 2

Chairman Plummer, Vice-Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to SJR 2.

The 10,000 members of the 24 trades unions affiliated with the Western Reserve Building Trades in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull strongly oppose Senate Joint Resolution 2 and House Joint Resolution 1, and the legislative proposals to hold a special election in August.

We are hard-working electrical workers, elevator constructors, glaziers, heat & frost insulators, laborers, millwrights, piledrivers, operating engineers, painters and finishers, plumbers & pipefitters, roofers, sheet metal workers, sprinklerfitters, structural ironworkers, bricklayers, boilermakers, carpenters, cement masons and teamsters.

We are dedicated to rebuilding the Mahoning Valley and northeast Ohio, and we have enjoyed our strong relationship with you in our collaborative mission to bring good paying jobs, economic development and a positive future for our communities.

The resolutions to raise the threshold for passing a constitutional amendment to 60 percent undermine the sacred principle of one person one vote and give a minority of Ohioans the power to block initiatives that a majority of Ohioans want. In short, it ends majority rule.

These ideas are unfair, undemocratic, and we believe they are deeply unpopular and unnecessary. Voters already passed an anti-monopoly amendment to our constitution in 2015.

For more than 110 years, voters in Ohio have had a direct path to democracy through the ballot initiative and no one has made a strong case for changing this.

In addition, you wisely did away with August elections because they waste precious tax dollars and only a small number of voters turnout.

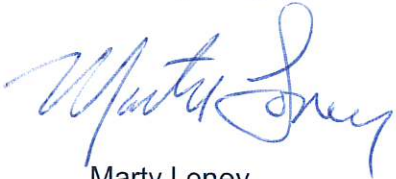
We are asking you to join us as you have worked with us on economic development projects that are popular, thriving and leading people to call northeast Ohio the "Voltage Valley."

On the horizon are other great projects that will mean work for trades women and men, spurring economic activity across our state and proving that Ohio is rebounding with a bright, bright future.

This is no time for divisiveness. This is a time for calm hands at the helm, not chaos.

Take the lead. Reject these resolutions, end the talk of a special August election designed only to help special interests, and let's work together on rebuilding Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share the views of the Western Reserve Building Trades.



Marty Loney

President

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