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Testimony of Randy Quickel, President
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1059
Before the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee
In Opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 2

Chairman Plummer, Vice-Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Mohamed:

UFCW Local 1059 opposes Senate Joint Resolution 2 because it would end majority rule in Ohio as we know it while undermining the sacred principle of one person, one vote that we hold sacred in our democracy.

In addition, we believe it is an affront to taxpayers and Ohioans to hold a special election in August that would waste \$20 million when we know turnout will be dismal, and a small number of voters would be asked to decide a momentous, historic issue in our state.

UFCW Local 1059 represents 19,000 members in Central and Southeastern Ohio that include workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, production, and health care. When Ohioans were staying home during the COVID-19 outbreak, our members masked up and went to work each day to help us slowly but surely pull out of the pandemic.

They are the frontline heroes you hear and read about, and their freedom and right to use the ballot initiative should be respected and preserved.

For more than 110 years, Ohioans have had the right to go directly to voters, and SJR 2 takes away our rights to decide what happens in our state.

This is unfair and undemocratic.

It is also unnecessary because voters approved an anti-monopoly amendment to our constitution in 2015. In fact, this resolution would do the opposite of its purported intention by serving special interests against the will and wishes of the electorate.

Getting rid of ballot initiatives means more power for special interest groups and less power for average voters.

For these reasons and more, UFCW Local 1059 is expressing its opposition to SJR 2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Randy Quickel

United Food & Commercial Workers International Union

