

Testimony of Patrick Klodt to OH House Gov't Oversight Committee, Proponent of HJR3

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee--My name is Patrick Klodt, and I am from Alliance Ohio in Representative Scott Oelslager's House District 48. I've been a political activist for well over 30 years helping in various campaigns for office at the Federal, State, and local levels. First, let me thank you for this hearing and for being public officials. Without your willingness to serve, the representative form of government doesn't work, so thanks again for your public service.

Today, I'm asking for your support of an Article V call for a limited convention for PROPOSING amendments to the US Constitution to rectify injuries to our liberty. There has been much testimony on this subject, but I think the essential issue before us is being overlooked--are we capable of self-governance? Do we still believe in the representative government? Consider that over 250 years ago our founding fathers fought King George, the English parliament, and the most powerful military in the world. Many of their fellow citizens thought it was madness to oppose the dictates of an oppressive authoritarian government. Luckily for us, they did not heed the worries of the timid but chose to fight for the right to self-governance through the consent of the governed. The result was a freedom-loving people confident in their abilities to rule their own lives and wise enough to be wary of consolidated power.

Unfortunately, today we have a tyrannical federal bureaucracy that has as its intent the destruction of these liberties by consolidating the powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government destroying the concept of separation of powers. The principles of separation of powers and the consent of the governed are essential concepts to ensuring our freedom. Consider:

First, federal agencies write the rules, which is a legislative function.

Secondly, federal agencies enforce their rules, which is an executive function.

Thirdly, if you disagree with the agencies, they will drag you to their administrative court. There they tell you why you are wrong, potentially fine you, and/or throw you in jail, which is a judicial function.

Think about what this might do to one of our farmers or small business owners who might run afoul of their incomprehensible rules. They will be adjudicated in their administrative courts and be judged without the right to a trial by their peers! King George and the British parliament could only have wished to have those powers over our forefathers.

This brings me to my main point.

Do we have the capacity for self-governance and enough concern for the concentration of powers?

Are we so timid and worried that we would rather give up our liberties to a corrupt tyrannical Washington bureaucracy?

Are we willing to strive to uphold the American dream of self-rule and secure our liberties?

When asked by Elizabeth Powell, "What kind of government have you given us Mr. Franklin"?

Ben Franklin replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it!"

This is the question before us. Do we continue the process of creating a more perfect union? Article V is a call for a convention of the states to propose amendments to restore the consent of the governed!

Again, I thank you for considering this issue and thank you for your willingness to serve as elected officials.

Patrick Klodt