TESTIMONY OF MARK PUKITA
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FEBRUARY 6, 2024
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Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey and Members of the Ohio House Oversight Committee, thank you for granting me this opportunity to speak on a subject that is very close to my heart: the Convention of States effort, particularly through the lens of entrepreneurship and personal freedom. My name is Mark Pukita, and I am a successful entrepreneur from Dublin, Ohio who, for over 20 years, grew a business from scratch into a $100M annual revenue enterprise doing business in over 30 states and employing almost 800 associates at sale, generating more than 3,500 jobs over those years. I know of what I speak.

In the next few minutes, I aim to shed light on why this movement is not just a political endeavor but a beacon of hope for fostering innovation, economic growth, and the safeguarding of our liberties.

The Convention of States project seeks to invoke Article V of the United States Constitution, allowing a convention of states to propose amendments to the Constitution. This initiative is born from a desire to address and curtail overreach of federal powers, restoring the balance of governance as originally intended by our Founding Fathers. But how does this relate to entrepreneurship and personal freedom? The connection is both profound and pivotal.

At the heart of entrepreneurship is the spirit of innovation and the freedom to pursue one's vision. Entrepreneurs are the backbone of the American economy, driving growth, creating jobs, and pushing the boundaries of innovation. However, the overextension of federal regulations often creates a stifling environment for these pioneers. The complexity and breadth of federal laws can hamper small businesses and startups, which lack the resources of larger corporations to navigate these waters. By advocating for a Convention of States, we seek to streamline governance, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and foster an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish.

Personal freedom is the cornerstone of American identity. It is the very principle that has attracted generations of immigrants to our shores, seeking the liberty to shape their destinies. Yet, this foundational value is under threat when the federal government grows too large and too intrusive, as our federal government surely has. The Convention of States effort aims to reinforce the rights of individuals and states, ensuring that personal freedoms are not eroded by distant bureaucracies. In doing so, it not only protects the liberty of today's citizens but also safeguards these rights for future generations.

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By decentralizing power, the Convention of States would empower local and state governments to be the primary architects of policies affecting their citizens. This is particularly beneficial for entrepreneurship, as it allows for more tailored, responsive, and efficient governance. Localized decision-making better understands the unique challenges and opportunities within each community, enabling policies that are conducive to business growth and innovation.

In conclusion, the Convention of States effort is not merely a political maneuver; it is a clarion call for the revival of the American Dream. It seeks to create a fertile ground for entrepreneurs to thrive, unencumbered by excessive regulation, and to guarantee that the personal freedoms our forebears fought for remain intact. By supporting this cause, we champion a future where innovation, prosperity, and freedom are the hallmarks of our nation. Thank you for your time, and I urge you to consider the profound, positive impact the Convention of States will have on entrepreneurship and personal freedom in America. I recommend you pass Ohio House Resolution 3 from committee for deliberation by the entire body of the Ohio House. I welcome your questions if you have any.