

Testimony before the
OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Hearing on H. J. R. No. 2

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Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey and members of the committee; Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective as a proponent of HJR 2.

As a long-time resident of the State of Ohio and previous owner of a small manufacturing business, I have watched as this country has devolved from our founder's vision of a collection of independent citizens under a representative form of government to a country that more closely resembles a socialistic European nation. The country has increasingly moved to a centrally run, authoritarian state with dictates from our "Overlords" in Washington D.C.

PROBLEM:

I have always been a strong believer in the "Rights of the Individual" and the Freedoms granted to us by the U.S. Constitution. But we all have been witness to the rapid dissolution of our rights and freedoms as citizens of this great country. Our Federal Government now mandates every part of our lives from what light bulbs or faucets to use in our homes, to the numerous regulations that make our cars more fuel efficient but much less safe. There are virtually no aspects of our lives not impacted by the whims of our national leaders. Our leaders now rule over us with a self-righteous demeanor. They are no longer responsive to "We The People". Without limits on their term in federal office, these individuals and representatives become singularly focused on currying favor only from those who can help them maintain their position of power. Their love of power lead them to only work for themselves and those that can keep them in power.

Decisions by our political leaders in Washington are not made on our behalf, but often in spite of, our wishes. The plight of the "American Person" is no longer of concern to the Ruling Class in Washington. The erosion, or more realistically, the elimination of the 10th Amendment has left us without a voice. The citizens of this state are represented by 15 individuals in the U.S. House of Representatives. That amounts to one representative for every 792,000 Ohioans and the two U.S. Senators have over 11,880,000 constituents. These ratios render our "Self-Governance" completely useless. Moreover, the description of a Republican form of government can hardly apply to this situation. Additionally, the passage of the 17th Amendment in 1913 removed the last leverage point the states held in the federal government. With the direct election of US Senators, the individual state governments were now relegated 2nd fiddle to the special interest groups who realistically keep our federal politicians in power. The end result is that our representatives in the federal government have little to no concern for the betterment of the average citizen's life.

- **It is time** to put an end to this non-beneficial situation.
- **It is time** to bring the power and decision making back closer to the citizen by bringing the power back to Ohio and our representative State Legislatures.
- **It is past time** to reign in our federal government.

SOLUTION:

A Convention of the States, as prescribed in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, can install some limits on the “Out of Touch”, “Out of Control” Federal Government. The passage of this House Resolution and ultimate convention will help bring back the power and control to the state government and much closer to “We The People”.

For these reasons I ask you to vote in favor of HJR 2. Thank you for your service to me and the citizens of Ohio.