

Testimony of Dale A. Maris in Support of HJR 2

To the House Government Oversight Committee: Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Maris, and I reside in Whitewater Township, Ohio, in House District 29, represented by Representative Abrams. My ancestries immigrated here in 1683 because of religious persecution and purchased land from William Penn in PA. George Maris Sr served as a Justice for Chester County, a member of the Assembly and served one year on the Provincial Council in 1695. George and his offsprings were Ministers in the Society of Friends church.

I am a retired Vice President, manager, and innovator in the Information Technology industry. I played a major role in the early development and advancement of the IT field. Over my 50 years, I helped advance many new technologies, consulted numerous major corporations and government agencies, and my software is used globally.

I have studied the U.S. Constitution extensively to support my teaching of the Patriot Academy's *Constitution* and *Biblical Citizenship in Modern America* courses. My focus has been on the separation of powers and the original intent of our Founding Fathers. It is well understood that the U.S. Constitution was designed to ensure a balance of power, preventing any one branch of government from becoming too dominant. Equally important is the division of authority between the federal government and the states and municipalities—known as federalism. The Founders were deeply concerned about a central government becoming tyrannical and infringing on citizens' liberties. The Constitution was nearly not ratified without the inclusion of the Bill of Rights to protect "the people."

Article I, Section 8, originally outlined the limited powers of Congress in 18 specific paragraphs. Of these, seven relate to national defense and one to piracy. Most of the remainder deal with commerce, such as weights and measures, currency, post offices, post roads, and unimpeded interstate trade. The final paragraph addresses authority over the District of Columbia. All other powers were reserved for the states and their people.

The Constitution also establishes a balance of power between the federal government and the states. It is the responsibility of the states and the people to oversee the federal government. After all, it was the states that created the Constitution, and only the states can approve amendments. When the federal government overreaches, the states have a constitutional duty to maintain this balance of powers.

Article V of the Constitution states:

"The Congress, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments..."

When Congress exceeds its constitutional limits, the states are obligated to invoke Article V. As state legislators, your first oath was to uphold the federal Constitution—even before your state constitution. Upholding this balance of power is your vital function within the US Constitution. Without action from the states under Article V, the federal government will continue to abuse its

powers unchecked, this is especially true with major socialist activities being pushed into our society.

Before this committee is **HJR 2**, a resolution calling for a Convention of States to address federal overreach. The intent of HJR 2 is to restore the constitutional limitations of the federal government. Its goal is to guide our nation back toward a peaceful and civil society by proposing amendments in three critical areas:

- Imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government,
- Limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and
- Establishing term limits for federal officials and Members of Congress.

A Trafalgar Group survey found that **70% of Americans** support this resolution. Both **Whitewater Township** and **Harrison City** have unanimously passed local nonbinding resolutions in support of a state-led Convention of States. While there are many initiatives currently underway within the federal government, they are not addressing the root problems that HJR 2 seeks to solve. As mentioned earlier, only the states have the authority to enact these necessary constitutional changes.

I respectfully urge you to vote HJR 2 out of committee so that your fellow representatives may have the opportunity to represent their constituents' views. Our goal is simply to begin a nationwide discussion about how we can address these pressing issues of federal overreach.

Sincerely,

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