

Testimony of Gary Telles in support of HJR-2

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and Members of the Committee:

I am an IT professional with 33 years of experience. It is no exaggeration that on a daily basis I feel extremely fortunate to live in the United States of America. My father's father emigrated from Germany to escape tyranny in the early 1900s, thank God rooting his posterity in a freer and more prosperous country. The forethought of my grandfather offered him, my dad, myself, my siblings, and my own children opportunities more plentiful than anywhere else in the world. Our livelihood, our freedom to practice our faith, to speak, to capitalize on our strengths are just a few examples of the benefits we reap thanks to the wisdom of our Founding Fathers.

These brilliant gentlemen gave us our Constitution setting up a government...a constitutional republic...unlike any other in all of history. This unique document would help maintain a fair and free Christian society in spite of the flaws of humanity. One of these flaws is the desire to seek power over others. It was clear at our nation's founding that it would be in the nature of the Federal Government to grow.

This is why I support the invocation of Article V of the Constitution to call a Convention of States. In supporting this movement, I too look to our Constitution to solve our current predicament: the Federal Government has gotten drunk on its own power. Thus, states have yielded far too much.

I am fully confident in the legal, peaceful Convention of States process that can offer benefits that far outweigh any concern that amendments have never been added like this before. And that's just what we want: amendments. Amendments that promote liberty.

To be candid about what I'd like to see accomplished by a Convention of States, I have some favorite liberty amendments to highlight. 1) Term limits for all federal officeholders. It is not unreasonable to show the door to elected officials the door when it's time. 2) Limiting Federal taxing to no more than 15% of a person's annual income. Without a legal limit on federal taxation, it's obvious the government will never stop requiring more from its citizens. 3) Repeal the 17th amendment. The representation in US Senate should be chose by each respective state thereby tethering the states to the goings-on in the Senate as intended in the original Constitution. 4) Federal departments and agencies must be reauthorized every three years by a vote in both houses of US Congress.

It is a tremendous and shrewd gift the Founders gave us in allowing a Convention of States for the purpose of adding amendments. We simply must use it to restore liberty in this country. Please vote in favor of sending HJR-2 to the House for a vote. Thank you for your service to the great state of Ohio, and for this opportunity to address the committee.