

Proponent Testimony for HJR 2 by Steve Jones, of Mason, Ohio

Several years ago I was discouraged and felt that there was no possible way to reign in the overreaching federal bureaucracy. Washington DC and its agencies seemed determined to control every facet of our lives. I was without hope until I read a book called *The Liberty Amendments*. I now recognize that the only way to curtail DC's overreach was to call for a Convention of States for the purpose of limiting the authority and scope of the Federal Government.

Some people who discern the same problems I do are afraid of holding a convention of states. Some of these people would rather have anarchy and civil unrest leading to armed revolution. Some prefer the route of secession. Many think it is enough to keep electing people to Federal office and hope that they do not become corrupted by the power, money and influence. Others fear a convention of states because they cannot control it.

You should not fear a convention of states, because YOU are the ONLY ones who can control it! The agenda is already set by HJR2. You pick your delegates; therefore, you control your delegates at the Convention of States!!! Only you can pass the amendments which come through the convention of states. Not good enough: join the assembly of state legislatures and help finalize the rules for the convention of states!

The 10th amendment states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Our founders envisioned robust state governance with self-governance and minimal Federal governance. Our founders created an amazing system of checks and balances with three branches of government protecting the rights of its citizens from overreaching federal government.

Ohio legislators should be the primary vehicle of governing OHIO – not DC. We live in the same town, and go to the same churches. Our kids go to school together. Because we can speak with you over coffee or petition you like we are today, we trust you to govern us.

Last year we had a booth at the Ohio state fair sharing with people about our Convention of States. When talking with people, we asked them who their state representative was. Very few of them knew who their representative in Ohio was; they could only name their representative in Washington DC. Some said that it was not important to

know their Ohio State representative since all the power was in Washington DC anyway. People think your position is irrelevant to their lives. This is sad. What percent of eligible voters actually voted for you???

How can you bring the money, power and influence back to Ohio? How can you govern Ohio without interference from DC? How can you legislate without your laws being overturned in DC? How can you bring substantial meaning back to your position in the Ohio House? How can you make sure you do not have to beg DC to bring more tax money back for Ohioans? How can you stop DC's tyranny over Ohio? How can you maintain liberty for your children and your grandchildren?

Pass HJR 2, and you will have done something that only you can do – and future generations will rise up and call you blessed and thank you for it!

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Steve Jones