Chairman Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey and esteemed members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in writing today. My name is Jeanne Ivancic. I am a citizen and taxpayer from Westlake. I am strongly opposed to H. J. R. NO. 2, the resolution for an Article V Convention proposing amendments regarding fiscal restraints, limiting power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limiting terms of office for its officials and members of Congress.

Legal experts and advocacy groups are concerned that delegates may not stick to the specific topics of fiscal restraint, federal jurisdiction, and term limits. The U.S. Constitution could be altered, taking away rights like free speech or equal protection. The Convention of States has no rules in place to protect against changes to the Constitution.

An Article V Convention could change our amendment process. The current process has been used repeatedly to make specific amendments by representatives that have been elected by the people to serve the best interests of constituents. This long-standing process is guided by the Constitution, which defines the steps to amend it, a system that has repeatedly proven itself. Why risk changing a process that has served our nation well over the years?

Another topic of concern is fiscal restraints. Our federal deficit continues to rise. The problem is due to lack of revenue because of unfair rounds of tax cuts. The ultra wealthy corporations and individuals who can afford to pay their fair share of taxes are given substantial tax breaks. The burden falls upon working and financially struggling individuals, families, and retired individuals. They can't afford the extra expenses trickled down to them. Ohioans with lower to middle incomes plus retired workers need protection and the social and financial safety nets provided to them by fair taxation. Control should not belong to a few delegates who were not chosen by the people and may be acting in their own self-interest.

Our election processes are an effective way for the electorate to limit terms of ineffective politicians. Imposed term limits such as those proposed by an Article V Convention take power away from voters because choices are restricted when a candidate is barred from being on the ballot. Another point is that the public is not served well if inexperienced legislators are making policy choices with widespread, lasting effects. Their inexperience could lead to being influenced by lobbyists rather than serving the best interests of their constituents. Term limits quash incentives for gaining policy expertise because members know their time in Congress is limited. On its face, it seems that term limits will serve to remove corrupt politicians. But the most effective mechanism available to remove

unresponsive, ineffectual members of Congress is through well informed voters via fair elections.

An Article V convention without rules or protections in place to prevent abuse by unelected delegates threatens our democracy and destroys the US Constitution. There are no clear guidelines including how delegates are chosen. Current safeguards instilled by the Constitution can be shattered, threatening our democracy. The lack of guard rails opens the door to abuse by special interests. Please consider my testimony and vote NO on H. J. R. NO. 2. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in writing regarding this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Ivancic

Jeanne Ivancic

Westlake, OH 44145