

Submission of testimony in opposition to HJR1  
April, 2023

Chairman Plummer and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this proposal of the Ohio House of Representatives. My name is Debbie Schmieding. I live in Athens County. I have been a citizen of Appalachia for most of my life, and I have both loved and grieved for the way of life of many folks in southeast Ohio.

We struggle to have any confidence in our government; for example, in the face of longstanding disregard for the Supreme Court rulings over school funding. At the same time, we realize it was the 1999 bond that provided for desperately needed school construction in our region. This barely would have passed the new threshold, as it squeaked by with 60.8% of the vote. Please note, we got our schools upgraded in an era of civility in the General Assembly which simply does not exist now.

Similarly, other issues (1990/1992) supporting affordable housing and infrastructure have been critical to us. These passed with less than 60%. We would also not have the support for parks and natural resources that we do, in your proposed scenario.

HJR1, your proposal to restrict the voice of all Ohio voters, is unfair and undemocratic. There is no reasonable explanation for it, other than your intent to dilute the will of the people in the face of unpopular policies.

I urge you to ditch this idea altogether!

Thank you for your attention.

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