

**Testimony of Brad Wendel, President  
Lima Building & Construction Trades Council  
Before the House Constitutional Resolutions Committee  
In Opposition to HJR 1**

Chairman Plummer, Vice-Chair Hillyer and Ranking Member Mohammed:

The Lima Building & Construction Trades Council is opposed to House Joint Resolution because Ohioans should continue to have the freedom and right to make decisions that affect our lives through ballot initiatives.

The Lima Building Trades represents 15 trade unions and 2,500 highly skilled craftsmen from all across northwest Ohio.

Our hard work generates thousands of local jobs and millions of dollars in revenue.

We have a proven track record of completing projects on time, on budget and with exceptional quality.

We believe the trades are an integral part of attracting businesses to locate in Ohio or expand in our state because the workforce is revered and respected.

We have also worked hard to maintain our rights and our freedoms, and we don't like the idea of turning over the sacred principle of one person one vote to a small number of voters who could block initiatives -- especially those that create jobs -- supported by a majority of voters.

HJR 1 would dishonor our constitutional principles, ending majority rule as we know it, and would give special interests too much power while eroding the power of voters to decide the issues that matter most to them.

We're on the right track in Ohio. The future looks bright. We need to stay the course. We need calm and we do not need chaos.

For those reasons, we ask this Committee to reject HJR 1.

Thank you.

Brad Wendel



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