

Submitter: Ken Jones

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HJR3

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Committee Members,

In this repressive atmosphere being created at the federal level it is the states which need to stand strong for democracy. Yes, too many initiatives can be a problem, but this is not at all the way to solve that and this is not the time, in any case. By making a few rural counties this powerful in stopping attempts to "redress our grievances" as a state, you are buying into a kind of voter suppression. Petitions that require people collecting them over the whole state in the most rural areas and figure out a strategy to reach those areas is the first problem. 8 per cent can also be a very high bar when you are requiring every single county to reach that level.

We need, as a state, the flexibility to protect our rights as citizens of a democracy at least in our state, especially in these hard to believe attempts at a coup at the federal level and so many unconstitutional behaviors being perpetrated on us. Please recognize that this HJR is not in the spirit of defending our state against a rogue federal government. Republicans used to believe in states' rights so even there it goes against the grain.

Thank you,

Ken Jones