



December 7, 2022

**To:** Members of the Ohio House

**From:** Pete Bucher, Interim President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund

**Re:** House Joint Resolution 6

**Dear Honorable Representative,**

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring House Joint Resolution (HJR) 6 for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly. **We urge a NO vote on HJR 6.** To the extent that HJR 6 passes, the OEC Action Fund will be doing extensive public education on the content and the votes on this legislation due to its detrimental impact to Ohioans' right to direct democracy and the ballot initiative process, and subsequently its indirect impact to Ohio's environment and the health of Ohioans.

HJR 6 is an attempt to silence the power of Ohioans through the ballot initiative process. Over the past two decades, less than twenty citizen-initiated ballot initiatives have been proposed before Ohioans, and only five have been approved. Ohioans already rarely approve these sorts of proposals—they are reluctant to change the Ohio Constitution. **There's no need to change what isn't broken.**

Ohioans chose, back in 1912, to have 50% of voters approve constitutional amendments. They also required a ballot initiative to gather signatures equal to 10% of the electorate in the last gubernatorial election. The signature gathering requirements for constitutional amendments themselves are the onerous requirement—it costs millions of dollars to fund signature gathering efforts. Yet regardless of who funds a particular signature gathering campaign, every signature must be from an Ohioan registered to vote in this state.

Once an issue is on the ballot, the legislative authority in that moment now rests with the people, **as established by the Ohio Constitution.** If Ohioans want to enshrine particular policies, programs, or other issues directly into the Ohio Constitution, **that is their inherent right as stated in the Preamble and Article I, Section 2.**

If HJR 6 is referred to the ballot, Ohioans will defeat it. They will not give away their own democratic authority. So rather than waste money, time, and resources on a protracted campaign on both sides, we should end the discussion now, shelving this supposed "solution" for a problem that does not even exist.

For these reasons and more, **we urge a NO vote on HJR 6.**

If you have any questions, please direct them to me, Pete Bucher at [pbucher@theoec.org](mailto:pbucher@theoec.org).

Sincerely,

Pete Bucher  
Interim President  
OEC Action Fund