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Testimony on National Popular Vote: **H.B. 6163**

**John Hartwell, Democracy for Connecticut**

Democracy for America has been a grassroots action group since 2004. We believe in socially progressive, fiscally responsible government that listens to the people. Our focus as a group is on grass roots political organizing to effect change at all levels of government -- local, state, and national. I am one of the founders of Democracy for Connecticut, one of the many grassroots chapters of Democracy for America.

Those of us who became involved in Governor Howard Dean's campaign for President understand that a "fifty state strategy" is a powerful tool that in 2004, utilized a relatively small paid staff to harness the hard work and dedication of a national network of volunteers and catapulted a little known Governor from Vermont into the front runner spot in the 2003 Presidential primary.

Currently, only 15 states see any substantial campaigning in Presidential elections. Individuals from "safe" states must travel to swing states in order to become involved, while their own state is ignored. The National Popular Vote would enable all Americans to experience a "fifty state strategy", whether they lived in a red, blue, or swing state, and no matter to which party their preferred candidate belonged.

When every vote counts, more people vote. If the National Popular Vote were enacted, more citizens could become involved in a meaningful way in Presidential elections, and small dollar donors from every state would be valued. Democracy works best when a large proportion of the electorate gets involved. I am urging the Connecticut General Assembly to pass House Bill 6163 and join the National Popular Vote Interstate Agreement so that every vote is equal and every vote counts, whether cast in red states or blue states, large or small.