

Date: February 22, 2017

Committee: Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Bill: H.B No. 5434. An Act Adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

Speaker: Leon Thomas (Tom) Carpenter

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Organization: Private Citizen

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Good morning/afternoon. I am Tom Carpenter from Simsbury. For the record, my legal name is Leon Thomas Carpenter.

I am here today to support bill 5434, an act adopting the Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular vote. I want to thank my representative, John Hampton, for encouraging me to be here today and to speak with you on this topic.

I will start with a quote from one of the presidential candidates from last year. Actually, it was a tweet, "I would have done even better in the election, if that is possible, if the winner was based on popular vote - but would campaign differently"

We are not here to talk about the most recent presidential election. That election was decided by the system the candidates ran in, the Electoral College. This Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular vote makes elections in all states relevant, not just the battleground states. It will make all of the presidential candidates campaign differently.

During the primaries, the votes in Connecticut mattered to the candidates and many of them made campaign stops in Connecticut. After the conventions, we received one visit from a presidential candidate. That is one visit out of 399 campaign events. 12 states represented 375 of these visits.¹ That is 94% of all the events while these same states represent only 29% of the electors. The rest of the states, representing over 70% of the Electoral College votes and the voters were ignored. Ignored.

I represent those citizens of Connecticut who want the presidential candidates to pay attention to our needs. Maybe those candidates will focus on manufacturing jobs in the Naugatuck valley aerospace jobs in East Hartford. Maybe if the presidential candidates came to Connecticut they would address gun ownership laws that are widely supported in our state. Maybe it is the

¹ <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/campaign-events-2016>