

IN OPPOSITION OF: The National Popular Vote Compact, HB 5434

Dear *Representatives of the Government Administration and Elections Committee*,

I am writing to you **in opposition of HB 5434** on the grounds that this agreement stands to directly disenfranchise the residents of the State of Connecticut, and undermine the stability of the Union at large.

While certainly as the world's oldest democracy it is our responsibility to ensure that the will of the people is carried out, for that is the very definition of democracy, it is not a simple matter of majority rule. Rather, the interests and well-being of the minority must be taken into account and protected in this process as well, and this is the very foundation upon which my opposition to HB 5434 rests.

We are not a swing state, nor a particularly large prize, and thus are not given much attention in presidential elections. Yet as a small state, the electoral college nevertheless guarantees us some degree of relevancy in this process. Enticing as it may be to surrender to a popular vote for the presidency due to recent events, especially in light of the way Connecticut has voted historically, I would **urge you to vote against this proposal.**

Although our interests have aligned with large states like California and New York as of late, this has not always been the case, and it would be short-sighted to assume that this will always be the case. The fact of the matter is that Connecticut has its own unique needs, interests, and initiatives as all states do. As it stands today, California and New York *alone* already outweigh us 12:1 in electoral power, and implementing a popular vote would only deepen this chasm, further pushing our communities to the fringes of relevancy.

Moreover, drawn to its conclusion, this proposal has the potential to affect the nation at large with potentially negative, and unforeseen consequences. Divided as we are at this point in time, the Electoral College forces candidates to win the presidency by narrow margins in many States rather than large margins in a few States. While this process may suffer some unpopularity when it occasionally fails to match the popular vote, it is far healthier for a nation to have a leader whose support emanates from places of great geographical diversity rather than relying solely upon dense, concentrated pockets of loyalists. Indeed, it was not people divided by politics alone that cause the Civil War, it was people divided by politics and geography that opened up one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Therefore, I must ask you to **oppose HB 5434, and put Connecticut first.** The National Popular Vote Compact has nothing to offer our State, but we have our sovereignty to lose. Though no creation of man shall ever be perfect, I have faith in the system of government our founding fathers gifted us, and all the quirky checks and balances that come along with it. -- Please do not water down the voting power of people with this bill. Thank you.

-Kevin Hooper