



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Co-Chair

Committee on Government Administration and Elections
February 22, 2017
Testimony in Support of the National Popular Vote
In support of HB 5205, HB 5434, HB 5435, HB 5736, SB 9
In Partial Support of SB 108
In Opposition to SB 133 SJ 11

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club, and speak here today on behalf of the state chapter.

The Electoral College was established to ensure all states signed on to form the union. That purpose was accomplished 2 centuries ago. It is well past time to move to the hallmark of a democracy: direct election by a majority of the votes of the people. Voting by state is not relevant here. Such consideration improperly skews the election. Elections should simply be by the uncontaminated majority of those voting. No other consideration can be allowed. Candidates should campaign to reach every voter, not just those residing in certain states. NPV guarantees that no vote is more or less important than any other. Further, the proposed language properly provides that it does not become effective until a majority of the electoral votes of the states are committed to this principle.

Advocacy for the NPV is in no way advocacy for a particular political party, ideology, or belief system. It is advocacy for democracy.

There is no easy route to elimination of the Electoral College as we have known it. Adoption of the National Popular Vote is the only quick and easy way to implement election by majority vote. It is appropriate, and has no significant shortcomings. Recent stories about the utter lack of fraudulent voting and the competence of the Secretaries of the States in running elections give us confidence this will work as intended.

We have seen recent elections where a candidate was elected President, despite losing the popular vote. In fact, 5 presidents have been "elected" with less than a majority of the popular vote. How embarrassing for a country which proclaims itself the model of democracy.

We unconditionally support HB 5205, HB 5434, HB 5435, HB 5736, SB 9.

We support SB 108 in principle, but we prefer the focus to be on statewide voting.

We reject SB133, as it concerns only one of the state's congressional districts.

We unconditionally reject SJ11, as it perversely advocates for the continuation of the Electoral College as it has been.