

Thank you Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,
My Name is Sara Bertschinger from Pine Island MN
And I speak in opposition to SF1362

It has come to my attention that National Popular Vote method has been included in this legislation; as you know, this country is a Constitutional Republic made up of individual and sovereign states; meaning we the people democratically elect leaders who govern within the confines of our Constitution. The Constitution was drafted not to limit people, but Government. In their wisdom, our founders knew, ultimate power, ultimately corrupts. Which is why every effort was made to localize and limit government for better transparency and accountability.

Again, as you know, In an electoral college system; each individual state combines the number of US senators and representatives to get their total electoral vote. In MN we get 10.

So how are we going to award these 10 votes? Give them to the most popular candidate nationwide? Or follow the concept this nation was founded on. Local limited control, where local individuals know the issues at hand and vote accordingly.

Currently MN is somewhere in-between the presidential candidate who gets the most votes in MN gets all the electoral votes. If we were truly following our nations founding concept, each congressional district would award their vote to whichever candidate won in said district. And only the 2 senate votes would go to the state popular vote.

Instead of promoting our local voice to be heard; this bill runs in the exact opposite direction. The National Popular vote awards preference not to individuals; but to the collective; to areas where there is high dense population. The NPV would disfranchise much of our country in preferences to highly populated states. We have 10 votes and we need you to protect our voice and our statehood.

As a child I had the opportunity to grow up in a number of West African countries mostly Cameroon. I loved living out in the bush. The people are amazing, hard working and resourceful. Community was everything, because we had to be. All too often the governments in and around where I lived put the preference of the populated Cities above the needs of those living out in the bush. The people I lived among were forgotten by their government because there was no representation provided. The popular over the minority is what I witnessed. This is why I value our Country, State and Constitution So much! America was founded on hearing the voice of the people across the state and country. America was founded on localized governance.

What I find disturbing is this push to centralize government and elections. The National Popular Vote movement does not give fair or equal representation to America as a whole, but rather centralizes voice and power to the will of those living in a few mega cities. The interests and needs of most of America will be ignored. Including MN.

You were elected to represent, protect, and uphold the voice of our State. the National Popular Vote goes in direct violation of state rights. Therefor I ask you to reject this bill in its entirety.

Thank you for your time.

-Sara-