

Those affected by governing  
decisions must be the ones  
who make them

**The Ohio Community Rights Network**  
Was founded on November 16, 2013.  
Citizens representing 11 counties  
signed the Columbus Declaration. The  
Community Environmental Legal De-  
fense Fund organized this conference to  
assist all Ohio citizens to establish an  
Ohio Community Rights Network, with  
the goal of convening an Ohio People's  
Constitutional Convention composed of  
delegates from Townships, Counties  
and municipalities across the state.  
Ohioans need to make democracy legal  
at the local level.

**TO ENACT the TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION Calling for  
County Home Rule  
And  
The Right To Local Self-  
Government ...**

**CONTACT US TODAY:**

**OHCRN**

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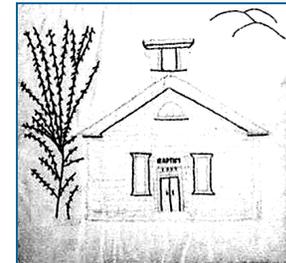
**MAKE SURE YOUR COUNTY,  
TOWNSHIP, VILLAGE OR CITY IS  
PART OF THE NETWORK**

State laws that make it  
"illegal" for local  
governments to protect  
community rights will  
one day be unenforceable.  
State preemption of  
community self-  
government, when used to  
empower corporations  
with legal cover to  
violate rights for profit, is  
illegitimate law.



**OHIO  
COMMUNITY RIGHTS  
NETWORK**

**TOWNSHIP  
RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR  
COUNTY HOME RULE  
AND  
THE RIGHT TO LOCAL  
SELF-GOVERNMENT**



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**A project of  
The Community Environmental Legal  
Defense Fund: [CELDF.org](http://CELDF.org)**



**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR  
COUNTY HOME RULE  
AND  
THE RIGHT TO LOCAL  
SELF-GOVERNMENT**

*Whereas*, the governing body of this community, on behalf of the people, declares that the legitimate foundation of government is the right to self-governance, and that every Ohioan retains and may exercise an unalienable right to participate in community local self-government in the place where they live; and

*Whereas*, the protection of the residents and the natural environment of this community against the involuntary violation of unalienable rights and harms to health, safety and welfare, even if that violation is sanctioned and permitted by the state, constitutes the highest obligation of the local government, and this obligation is mandated by the doctrine of consent of the governed; and

*Whereas*, residents of this community are afforded unequal protection of the law regarding the right to community local self-government, since residents of home rule cities and statutory cities and villages enjoy rights including initiative, referendum, and recall, as well

as the ability to amend their local government charters, and the right to enact local laws through their elected community representatives, while residents of this unincorporated community are denied all forms of local self-government; and

*Whereas*, the authority to locally administer State-dictated regulations does not constitute community local self-government; and

*Whereas*, legislative and constitutional preemptions that deny the authority of this community to protect the health, safety, welfare, quality of life and future livability for residents and their progeny violate fundamental rights.

***Be it hereby resolved,***

- That the governing body, on behalf of the people of this community, calls for the enactment of a County home rule charter based on a Community Bill of Rights, including accessible avenues to charter amendment, and the initiative and referendum powers of direct democracy for all county residents.; and
- That the governing body, on behalf of the people of this community, calls for the criminalization of industrial activities that violate the rights of the community; and

- That the governing body, on behalf of the people of this community, calls for the right to community local self-government to be secured in the Ohio Constitution, as a limitation on the ability of the State to nullify that right; and

- That the governing body, on behalf of the people of this community, calls for state constitutional change that will guarantee an end to unequal protection of the law in Ohio communities and the establishment of community local self-governing rights for ALL Ohioans; and

- That the governing body, on behalf of the people of this community, appoints a delegate, who shall be \_\_\_\_\_, to the Ohio Community Rights Network, charged in the name of this community with authority to organize a People's Constitutional Convention, with delegates chosen from each Township, County, Village, and City, to amend or re-write the Ohio Constitution so that it recognizes the fundamental right to community local self-government, unimpeded by state preemptions that block local legislation for the protection of fundamental rights against corporate privilege.