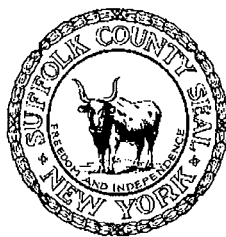


# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

KARA HAHN  
LEGISLATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE CHAIR  
ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING  
& AGRICULTURE

VICE-CHAIR  
PARKS & RECREATION



## MEMBER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
PERSONNEL, INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY & HOUSING  
PUBLIC SAFETY

## COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan  
260 E Main St #203  
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Senate Majority Leader Flanagan:

We are writing to respectfully request that a resolution be passed by the NY State Senate that would memorialize the Legislature's disagreement with the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and would call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. This constitutional amendment should seek to rectify the High Court's decision to grant inanimate corporations the same unabridged first amendment protections afforded to our citizens. When this ruling is applied by lower courts to pending and future cases, the precedent set by the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision will erode the rights of the electorate and undermine democracy. By taking decisive action on behalf of our State's residents to protect the role of individuals in our electoral process you will assert once and for all that this democracy belongs to the people of the United States and not corporations.

The consequence of the *Citizens United* decision is such that the political spending of corporations receives a constitutional protection previously reserved only for individuals. The Court explicitly disregarded longstanding precedent when it struck down federal prohibitions on the use of corporate treasury funds for campaign finance expenditures in connection with federal elections on the grounds of being unconstitutional.

Compounding the severity of this ruling is its application in lower court decisions, the first example of which has been the *Speechnow.org vs. FEC*. In this case the precedent set by the *Citizens United* ruling was applied to overturned limits on independent expenditures. This led to the era of SuperPACs in which we currently find ourselves; an era where a select few can inundate our electoral process with special interest money.

It is often evident that candidates and the "Super PACs" that supposedly campaign separately for them are actually well coordinated. This is accomplished by having a candidate's former staff members managing their "Super PAC." The result is substantial contributions to candidates through under-handed means that severely limit the democratic process of the United States and ensure that corporations hold immense and disproportionate political power.

306 MAIN STREET  
PORT JEFFERSON, NY 11777

KARA.HAHN@SUFFOLKCOUNTYNY.GOV

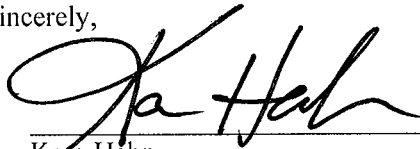
PHONE: (631) 854-1650  
FAX: (631) 854-1653

In his 1910 "New Nationalism" speech, former President Theodore Roosevelt stated that, "It is necessary that laws should be passed to prohibit the use of corporate funds directly or indirectly for political purposes; it is still more necessary that such laws should be thoroughly enforced. Corporate expenditures for political purposes... have supplied one of the principal sources of corruption in our political affairs."

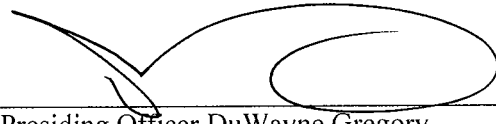
In the absence of leadership from Washington on this issue, we need our New York State representatives to create a forum to remedy this inequity. In that spirit we ask for your consideration of calling for a constitutional amendment to be sent to the states for ratification to correct the course of democracy and realign political power as a right of the people.

Thank you for considering our request and please contact me with any questions.

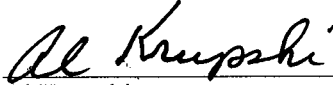
Sincerely,



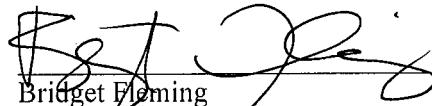
Kara Hahn  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Fifth District



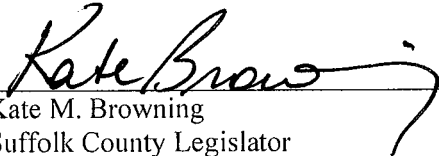
Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Fifteenth District



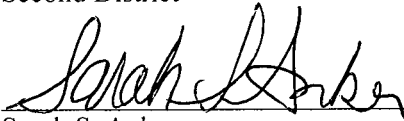
Al Krupski  
Suffolk County Legislator  
First District



Bridget Fleming  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Second District



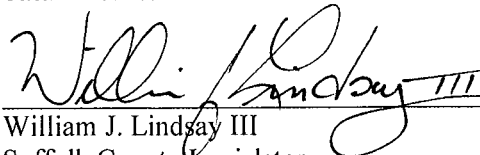
Kate M. Browning  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Third District



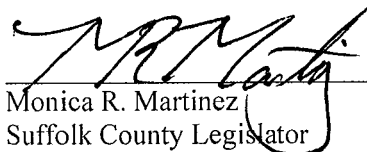
Sarah S. Anker  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Sixth District



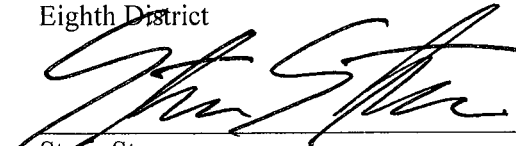
Deputy Presiding Officer Robert Calarco  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Seventh District



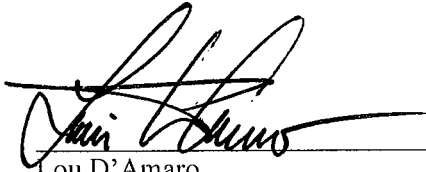
William J. Lindsay III  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Eighth District



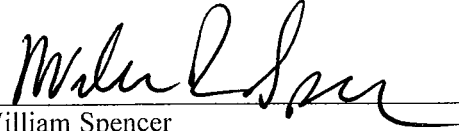
Monica R. Martinez  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Ninth District



Steve Stern  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Sixteenth District



Lou D'Amato  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Seventeenth District



William Spencer  
Suffolk County Legislator  
Eighteenth District

Cc:

Hon. Kenneth P. LaValle, Senator  
Hon. Thomas Croci, Senator  
Hon. Carl L. Marcellino, Senator  
Hon. Anthony Palumbo, Assemblyman  
Hon. L. Dean Murray, Assemblyman  
Hon. Alfred C. Graf, Assemblyman  
Hon. Andrew Garbarino, Assemblyman  
Hon. Andrew Raia, Assemblyman  
Hon. Joseph Saladino, Assemblyman

Hon. Philip M Boyle, Senator  
Hon. Michael Venditto, Senator  
Hon. Jack Martins, Jr., Senator  
Hon. Fred W. Thiele, Jr., Assemblyman  
Hon. Steven Englebright, Assemblyman  
Hon. Philip R. Ramos, Assemblyman  
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick, Assemblyman  
Hon. Chad Lupinacci, Assemblyman