

RESOLUTION 2012-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA TO SUPPORT AMENDING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO RESTORE THE PEOPLE'S POWER TO LIMIT CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN ELECTIONS AND POLICYMAKING

WHEREAS, Due to the incorrect interpretation of the Constitution and the adverse impact on the rights of people in our democracy in the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, local, state, and federal elected officials must take action to restore the authority of the American people to restrict the undue influence of corporations on our elections and public policy; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* broke away from the legal precedents that acknowledged the power of citizens through their elected representatives to limit corporate influence in elections because the interests of corporations do not always correspond with the public interest and therefore, the political influence of corporations should be limited; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's radical rewrite of the First Amendment's protections will permit even greater corporate influence over our political process by allowing unlimited spending from corporate profits to favor or oppose candidates; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's decision will allow the free speech rights of a corporation to dilute and outweigh the free speech rights of ordinary citizens, because of the vast financial resources corporations have for spending money to influence elections compared with regular people; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court's elevation of corporate "rights" may have constitutional repercussions that go far beyond this one case and will undermine the ability of the people to regulate corporations in numerous policy areas affecting people's health, wealth and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, THE American people, through their local, state, and federal governments must reclaim their rightful place as sovereigns in our democracy and protect the electoral process from corporate domination; and

WHEREAS, fair elections are fundamental to the health and well-being of our democracy; and

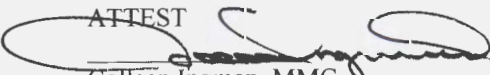
WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly stands in agreement that corporations are not entitled to the same first amendment rights in our elections as people and further urge our state legislators to adopt and send to the United States Congress a resolution in support of amending the Constitution to restore the ability of the American people to limit corporate spending in our elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA THAT:

The City and Borough of Sitka, strongly condemns the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United vs. FEC* and supports amending the U.S. Constitution to limit corporate influence and restore democracy in our elections for the benefit of the American people.

PASSED and APPROVED this 10th day of July, 2012.

ATTEST


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk


Cheryl Westover, Mayor