

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11

A RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT RULING IN *CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION* CONCERNING CORPORATE CAMPAIGN SPENDING AND REQUESTING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO REVERSE THE DECISION'S IMPACTS.

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2010, the United States Supreme Court, by a five to four decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, overturned several important provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, as well as earlier Supreme Court decisions, and swept away a century of tradition barring corporate spending in elections in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling holds that corporations are people with free speech rights under the United States Constitution for purposes of engaging in unlimited corporate spending in elections; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* unleashes a torrent of corporate money into the political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* purports to invalidate state laws and even state constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* grants excessive power to corporate interests and threatens to overwhelm the voices of individual citizens in the political process; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those decisions of the United States Supreme Court that adversely impact the heart of democracy and self-government; and

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout history, including, in seven of the ten decades of the twentieth century, the amendment process to reverse the impacts of seven Supreme Court decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, that, by this resolution, it expresses strong opposition to the adverse impacts to democracy via unlimited corporate spending in elections, which is allowed by the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and that it call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution to prohibit or limit corporate spending in elections and restore democracy to our republic;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the United States congressional delegation for New Mexico.

DATED this _____ day of April, 2012.