



**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS
Kent County, Michigan**

Councilmember **Molly Nixon**, supported by Councilmember **Pamela Conley**, moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 09

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STATE RESOLUTION TO THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AND SEND TO
THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO
OVERTURN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the protections afforded to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to the people of our nation are fundamental to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not people, but instead, are entities created by the laws of states and nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS, the opinion of the four dissenting justices in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission noted that corporations have special advantages not enjoyed by natural persons that allow them to spend prodigious sums on campaign messages that have little or no correlation with the beliefs held by natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling will allow the unleashing of corporate money into our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in the past; and

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

WHEREAS, this ruling represents a serious and direct threat to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the general public and political leaders in the United States have recognized, since the founding of our country, that the interests of corporations do not always correspond with the public interest and that therefore the political influence of corporations should be limited; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States to use the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and republican form of self-government; and

WHEREAS, legislators have a duty to protect democracy and guard against the potentially detrimental effects of corporate spending in local, state and federal elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. that the Cedar Springs City Council calls upon our Michigan State legislators to call for a state resolution to the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people.
2. that the Cedar Springs City Clerk will transmit copies of this resolution to the State Senator for the 74th District; the State Representative for the 74th District; the Majority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Majority leader of the Michigan Senate and the Minority Leader of the Michigan Senate.

AYES: Councilmembers: Perry Hopkins, Molly Nixon, Robert Truesdale,
Rose Ellen Powell, Pamela Conley

NAYS: Councilmembers: Gerald Hall, Dan Clark

ABSENT: Councilmembers: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 09 DECLARED ADOPTED.

Dated: April 14, 2016 _____

Linda Christensen, City Clerk

Certification

I certify that this is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Cedar Springs at a Regular Meeting held April 14, 2016 and that public notice of that meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Dated: April 14, 2016 _____

Linda Christensen, City Clerk