

Resolution to Amend the Federal Constitution to Clarify that Corporations are not People and Money is not Speech

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

Whereas, corporations are human-made, legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government, and are not and have never been human beings, but rather are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations, and;

Whereas, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, and can concentrate vast wealth which allows them to corrupt the political process in order to gain special privileges and to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

Whereas, the recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from The Peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

Whereas, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning, and;

Therefore be it resolved that the town of Chapel Hill, NC stands with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

DATE: Jan. 9th, 2012