

 END CORPORATE RULE. LEGALIZE DEMOCRACY.

MOVE TO AMEND

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED 28TH “WE THE PEOPLE AMENDMENT” TO ABOLISH THE DOCTRINES OF “CORPORATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS” AND “MONEY EQUALS POLITICAL SPEECH”

WHEREAS, “We the People” have the inherent right to self-government, autonomy and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, multinational corporations have become so large and powerful that they threaten our sovereign right to govern ourselves; and

WHEREAS, only people are entitled to claim constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has illegitimately held that corporations have the constitutional rights people in order to overturn laws designed to protect workers, the environment, public health and safety, and the integrity of elections; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has illegitimately held that the expenditure of money is a form on protected political speech; and

WHEREAS, the amount of money being raised and spent in elections is causing ordinary citizens to lose confidence in the integrity of our own government; and

WHEREAS, neither the idea that corporations are people nor that money is speech is mentioned anywhere in the text of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the Supreme Court decided that limiting the amount corporations can spend to influence elections is a violation of the "free speech rights" of "people," and therefore unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, in *McCutcheon v. FEC*, the Supreme Court decided that limiting the aggregate amount wealthy individuals can spend on political races is a violation of their "free speech rights" under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the only way to permanently reverse the damage done by these decisions is to amend the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, an important first step toward this goal is for organizations and communities across the country to publicly state their support of this course of action; and

WHEREAS, across the country over 600 local governments have called for such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, across the country over 300 communities have voted at the ballot box in support of such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, across the country over 1,000 organizations (including organized labor) have voted to endorse such an amendment; and

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. FEC* has unleashed a torrent of corporate electioneering that drowns out the countervailing force of organized labor, as well as the voices of everyday Americans on the political process; and

WHEREAS, workers generally and Labor Unions specifically have historically been at the forefront of virtually every struggle for social and economic justice in this country; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 48 has been introduced into Congress specifically calling for a 28th Amendment to the US Constitution to state:

WE THE PEOPLE AMENDMENT

House Joint Resolution 48, introduced April 29, 2015

Section 1. [Artificial entities are not persons and can be regulated]

The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

Section 2. [Money is not speech and can be regulated]

Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure. Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the 1st Amendment.

BE IT RESOLVED, that _____ endorses and supports the “We the People Amendment” to make clear that corporations do not possess the inherent and unalienable rights of people and that the raising and spending of money in elections can be regulated; and

RESOLVED, that _____ will work to educate our members about this issue and the need for a constitutional amendment; and

RESOLVED, that the _____ will notify all members of Congress, all state governors, and state representatives, and the President of the United States of the passage of this resolution, and request that they go on record in support of such an amendment.

Passed and adopted on ____ [date] _____ *by* ____ [body] _____.