

- o Charters were weakened only gradually until 1886 when an illegitimate Supreme Court decision (Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad) gave corporations 14th Amendment Rights – rights which were intended to protect freed slaves.
- o Since then Courts have also given corporations rights under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Amendments, resulting in their ability to successfully plead legal arguments in numerous cases against the interests of “We the People” and to protect their own profits.
- o The 2010 decision: “Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission (FEC)” was the final straw that removed restrictions on corporate money’s ability to control our elections via monetary donations in support of or against any political campaign (equating money with/as speech).
- o Due to these so-called Corporate Constitutional Rights and the implied idea of money as speech, many cases involving attempts to rein in corporate actions (such as greenhouse gas emissions) are stymied by court decisions which end up protecting corporate rights which in turn leads to a government dominated by the dictates of corporations. This also institutionalizes an endorsement of greed that debilitates our political system and our actions towards and within the world in general.

SOLVING THE PROBLEM:

Only a constitutional amendment can undo decisions by the Supreme Court and return the rights to “We The People” alone.

- o In today’s political environment the likelihood that such an amendment will be passed by Congress via the normal political route is extremely low because politicians are controlled and benefit politically by favoring the interests of corporations over those of the people.
- o The alternative provided under Article V of the Constitution is that it takes 2/3 of the states to request a convention to amend the Constitution. This is unlikely to happen and is fraught with possible undesirable and unintended consequences.
- o Only a concerted effort by the major national faith and ethical conviction communities working together on many fronts has the likelihood of success!

The passage of an amendment to eliminate corporate constitutional rights and money as speech would have the following effect, both immediately and over time:

- o Render the Citizens United 2010 decision invalid.
- o Lead to the passage of laws and regulations that could place reasonable but effective restrictions on the activities of corporations that are today contributing significantly to accelerating climate change.
- o Permit changes to restore justice and democracy to a significant range of other issues that today are leading to increasing levels of injustice, poverty, inequality, racial and ethnic oppression, voter repression, and many issues that are stalled by corporate oppression.
- o Return the leadership role that the United States has traditionally enjoyed in the world and by our example, to set a precedent for other nations to follow suit

For Information or questions:

Visit: www.movetoamen.org/interfaith-caucus for details and to engage in the process.

With direct questions and for immediate answers contact Michael Greenman, Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend; mgreenmanoh@gmail.com; 614-898-5825). Donations welcome and payable to: First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd, Columbus, OH 43214 (Memo Line add: MTA-IFC)