



March 29, 2018

The Honorable Barbara Griffin, Chairman
House Election Law, Legislative Office Building, Room 305-307, Concord, NH 03301

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of SB363

Dear Members of House Election Law Committee,

For the record my name is Olivia Zink. I am the Executive Director of Open Democracy. We have 33,000 members and are working for political equality for all through an open, accountable, trusted government free from the corruption of big money politics.

We need to reduce the influence of big money in politics and increase the voices of average citizens.

This bill prohibits political expenditures by foreign nationals. We have a right to know who is influencing our elections. **Our elections should not be influenced by foreign nationals.**

New Hampshire can and should regulate political advertising paid for by foreign entities. The NH Senate passed this bill 24-0 and I hope you will debate this important policy and have a bi-partisan recommendation of OTP.

Foreign nationals can not use a foreign credit card to pay a Verizon cell phone bill but they can donate money to NH political campaigns. It is time that we ban donations by foreign nationals.

Non-resident foreign nationals, whether corporations or individuals, do not have First Amendment protections.¹

In January 2012, the US Supreme Court retained a ban on Foreign Campaign Donations, the Supreme Court issued an order upholding prohibitions against foreigners making contributions to influence American elections.² Congress had strengthened the restrictions in 2002, after finding that foreigners were using soft-money contributions to political parties to buy access to American politicians. It's time for NH to do the same.

Respectfully,

Olivia Zink
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603-715-8197 or cell: 603-661-8621

¹ David Cole, Georgetown University Law Center <https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1302&context=facpub>

² upholding a lower court's decision in Bluman, et al., v. [Federal Election Commission](#)