

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Janet Wall, Chair
Legislative Administration, Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

TESTIMONY in support of HB 504

Dear Chairman Wall and members of the Legislative Law Committee,

In March of 2014, I testified at the Lyme Town Meeting in favor of Warrant Article 17, which called for a federal constitutional amendment to counter the damaging effects of the Supreme Court's *Citizen United* decision. Below is an excerpt from the short speech I made then.

This Article

Warrant Article 17 is an attempt to reverse the damage caused by recent court rulings. It instructs our representatives in Washington and Concord to support an amendment (1) reestablishing the authority of Congress and state legislatures to regulate political spending, and (2) making clear that the rights enumerated in the Constitution were intended for real people, not corporations or unions.

An issue for Town Meeting?

You may be thinking, *OK, this is an important issue, but why bring it up at Town Meeting?* The answer is simple. Members of Congress are now so dependent on special interest money that they are not going to attack the problem on their own. Only grassroots political pressure, pressure from the bottom up, will force them to act. And we! here in this room! are the bottom.

The voice vote that followed was overwhelmingly in favor of the warrant article. I counted maybe two, no more than three dissenters among the 160 or so people in the room.

There was no doubt then, and certainly not today, that the people in my town despise *Citizens United*. It's time for the New Hampshire Legislature to be on record in support of that sentiment. I urge the Committee to pass HB 504, a bill that would do just that.

Respectfully,

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