

ARTICLE AS IT APPEARED AT THE BERNARDSTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IN MAY OF 2012

94 voters present

Article 45: A RESOLUTION THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT 'NATURAL' PEOPLE AND THAT MONEY DOES NOT EQUATE TO FREE SPEECH. (*Non-binding*)

The Town voted to instruct our members of Congress to support an amendment to the United States Constitution to clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as people and that money is not speech for purposes of election-related spending.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights are intended to protect the rights of individual human beings ("real People"); and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations; and,

WHEREAS, the United State Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission presents a serious threat to self-government by allowing unlimited corporate spending to influence elections; and,

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the voters of Bernardston, Massachusetts hereby instruct the Senators representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the members of the United States House of Representatives representing this Congressional District to propose, and our state legislators to ratify an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of real people and that money is not speech for purposes of campaign-related expenditures and contributions.

The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:

Amendment

Section 1. [A corporation is not a person and can be regulated]