

Whereas, large corporations have used their so-called 'rights' to overturn democratically enacted laws passed at municipal, state and federal levels, aimed at curbing corporate abuse, thereby rendering local governments ineffective in protecting their citizens against corporate harms to the environment, to health, to workers, to independent business, to local and regional economies, and;

Whereas, the recent *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from The Peoples' business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election, and;

Whereas, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning, and;

Whereas, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the *Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the United States* to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts hereby calls on our Selectboard to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the county in the *Campaign to Legalize Democracy in the US* and to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

Jim Perkins moved the Town vote to adopt the above resolution:

The motion by Jim Perkins was seconded.

At 2:30 PM several members of the Fire Department suddenly left to answer an emergency call. A quorum call was requested, and at 2:45 PM the Moderator ruled a quorum present and the Town Meeting resumed its discussion of the article. After a minimum of discussion, the **motion passed with a majority on a voice vote.**

Article Twenty-Seven: *(by petition)* To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action relative thereto:

**RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF LEVERETT, MA, TO ASSIST IN THE SAFE
RESETTLEMENT OF CLEARED GUANTÁNAMO DETAINEES**

WHEREAS, President Obama has vowed to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base by January 2010; and

WHEREAS, many detainees at Guantánamo have been cleared by our government of wrongdoing and have been determined to pose no threat to the United States; and