

Rationale for the Resolution regarding a Constitutional Amendment

Are the interests of "the People" being addressed in Washington? Instead, many see that the interests of corporations and their lobbyists dominate in Washington. Since the *Citizens United Supreme Court decision* two years ago, these concerns have grown as we see the rapidly increasing flow of money into our electoral process from corporate interests, often anonymous. That ruling is the culmination of a long trend of court decisions that have gradually given corporations more and more of the rights that the Constitution allocates just to people. Government cannot limit spending by corporations in any elections in our country unless this ruling is changed. Three months after the ruling an ABC News/Washington Post poll found that **80% of those polled oppose the ruling.**

Corporations are not people. They are creations of the state. They initially were created, supervised, and conceptualized as quasi-public entities, "designed to serve a social function for the state." Now, their interest is in making profits and satisfying shareholders. It is not their "job" to safeguard the overall wellbeing of our society, our education, our earth, etc.; that is the job of the People. To address this situation and to reclaim our democracy requires that Congress pass and send to the states a Constitutional amendment removing personhood rights that have been given to corporations through the courts. This resolution asks that Congress send such an amendment to the states for ratification.

From the dissenting opinion: "Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires...they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established. The distinctive threat to democratic integrity posed by corporate domination of politics was recognized at the "inception of the republic" and "has been a persistent theme in American political life" ever since."