

→ Jim Crist

Why Greater West Central Area Labor Council Should Pass a Resolution to Reverse the Corporate Constitutional Rights

On January 21, 2010, the United States Supreme Court ruled that local, state, and federal governments cannot regulate corporate influence in politics. In the 5 to 4 decision of the case *Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission*, the Court declared that corporations are 'persons' in the meaning of the US Constitution and are therefore guaranteed the same Constitutional rights as natural persons, and that money is speech. Therefore corporations and extremely wealthy individuals can spend unlimited amounts of money in political elections, as well as gather other constitutional rights that normally only natural person retain.

We, the concerned citizens and delegates of the Greater West Central Area Labor Council, request the Greater West Central Area Labor Council Board pass the following resolution and send the following written directive to our representatives in the Wisconsin State Legislature and in the US Congress, with copies to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

RESOLUTION by Greater West Central Area Labor Council, Wisconsin for a Constitutional Amendment

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We the People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, and;

Whereas, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

Whereas, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food, and;

Whereas, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We the People and our government, and;

Whereas, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We the People, and;

Whereas, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We the People's exercise of our Constitutional rights, and;

Whereas, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and the People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We the People of the United States, and;

Whereas, interpretation of the US Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We the Peoples' exercise of self- governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We the People, and;

Whereas, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate 'corporate rights' even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities, and;

Whereas, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations, and;

Whereas, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings, and;

Whereas, the recent Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited spending by wealthy individuals, corporations and other entities 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, the judicial interpretation to construe spending money in political campaigns is contrary of the notion of one person, one vote and allows those with the most money to have an unfair advantage in a political system that should be about ensuring that all citizens have equal access to the political process and to influencing the outcome of elections, and;

Whereas, money is property, not speech, 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 Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish Corporate Constitutional Rights and the doctrine of Money as Speech;

RESOLVED, that "We the People" of Greater West Central Area Labor Council, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate constitutional rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

1. Only human beings — not corporations, limited liability companies, unions, non-profit organizations, or

similar associations and corporate entities — are endowed with constitutional rights, and

2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

Date: 9-12-2013 Signed: Lauri L. Huber, Rec. Secretary GWCALC
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