

# **Business Resolution**

## **Supporting a Constitutional Amendment**

**Whereas**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

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

**Whereas**, small business owners view the Citizens United decision as bad for small business. In an American Sustainable Business Council poll, 66% of those surveyed said the ruling that gives corporations unlimited spending power in elections is bad for small businesses. Only 9% said it was good for small business, and;

**Whereas**, small business owners have a negative view of the role money plays in politics. Overall: 88% view the role money plays in politics negatively; 68% view it very negatively, and;

**Whereas**, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states, and;

**Whereas**, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for ONLY We the People, and;

**Whereas**, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*. The untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech, and;

**Whereas**, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore,

**Resolved**, that I seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. I stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ (owner / co-owner)

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_