



Eklutna Valley Community Council

RESOLUTION 2017-01

A RESOLUTION ASKING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO CLARIFY THAT ONLY HUMANS ARE ENDOWED WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND THAT MONEY IS NOT FREE SPEECH

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution was ordained and established by “We the People”; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution refers to “people” and “citizens,” but never mentions corporations; and

WHEREAS, corporations existed when the Constitution was ordained and established, but were not considered “people” or “citizens” in our Nation’s founding document; and

WHEREAS, corporations are owned by people who already have the privileges and protections accorded to all citizens, including the right to vote and the right of free speech; and

WHEREAS, corporations cannot vote, run for office, practice religion, or serve in the Armed Forces, which are also forms of free speech; and

WHEREAS, the wealth and influence of corporations may be controlled by one person or a small group of people; and

WHEREAS, corporations may be owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by foreign entities; and

WHEREAS, a corporation is property, not a person or citizen; and

WHEREAS, money is property, not speech, and;

WHEREAS, since the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission in 2010, wealthy individuals, corporations and other entities are contributing unrestricted and unlimited amounts of untraceable money (“dark money”) to influence politicians, elections, and policies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s interpretation that spending money in political campaigns is a form of free speech is contrary to the notion of one person, one vote and

allows those with the most money to have an unfair advantage; and

WHEREAS, we believe the U.S. Supreme Court misapplied the U.S. Constitution's concept of "person" to include corporations in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission and other case law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Eklutna Valley Community Council stands with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country in asking Congress to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the U.S. Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eklutna Valley Community Council strongly recommends that our municipal, state and federal representatives enact resolutions and legislation to advance this cause.

Passed this 18th day of January 2017.

Margan Grover, President