

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a fundamental 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 United States Constitution and 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, and 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, 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 United States Constitution and We The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We The People decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States; and

Whereas, interpretation of the United States Constitution by appointed United States Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has denied We The People's exercise of self governance by endowing corporations with constitutional protections intended for We The People; and

Whereas, the 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 United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*, which 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, and policy decisions, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from We The People's business or even vote against the interest of their human constituents in order to raise competitive campaign funds for their own re-election; and

Whereas, the monopolization of public speech by corporations neither promotes nor protects free speech due to the proliferation of anonymous contributions and spending for political gain that promotes dishonesty and corruption, preventing We The People from assessing the true motives of the speaker; and

Whereas, We The People must be able to hold accountable, by means of laws passed by elected state

legislators, those who fund political speech when their messages prove false or misleading; and

Whereas, those laws may reasonably regulate how money is used to influence the outcomes of elections in order to secure the interests of We The People to be represented and participate in elections and self-government and protect the integrity of elections and government against out-of-state and foreign interests and undue influence of wealthy special interests, whether of corporations, unions, or other artificial entities; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining together to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution, in accordance with Article V of the Constitution, which would put to a vote of We The People a constitutional amendment that provides that the states, within their respective jurisdictions, may reasonably regulate and limit the spending of money to influence campaigns, elections, or ballot measures, and that in doing so may distinguish between natural persons and artificial entities, such as corporations, unions, and artificial intelligence; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of

Representatives, and each member of the Missouri
Congressional delegation.