RESISTING CITIZENS UNITED

Despite the Supreme Court’s ruling, much can be done by the states to constrain corporate/1% subversion of representative government/99%. Here are some measures taken by some state legislatures but not yet in Arkansas. The first six will help greatly, but the seventh—to eliminate corporate personhood—is the crucial action.

1. laws to enforce disclosure of campaign contributions
2. corporate registration as a PAC before making campaign expenditures
3. approval of all election spending by corporate boards
4. campaign ads funded by corporations must have “approved by CEO” in the ad
5. restrictions on campaign contributions by government contractors
6. banning of campaign contributions from outside the US
7. resolution supporting a constitutional amendment rejecting corporate personhood

We need not wring our hands when so much beneficial work by the citizens and our legislature lies ahead, nor mourn when so many outstanding organizations, such as Public Citizen, oppose the Supreme Court ruling. Dick
Last year’s Citizens United ruling—the controversial Supreme Court decision that shot down regulations restricting corporate donations in U.S. elections—is about to encounter its first significant challenge in mainstream politics.

On November 1, a handful of Democratic senators proposed a constitutional amendment that would effectively overturn the landmark case. The primary co-sponsors of the proposed amendment, Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), argue that their plan would provide “badly needed stability” in campaign financing by reversing the decision and re-empowering the electoral voice of ordinary Americans. The legislation has been referred to the judiciary committee. 

click here for entire story
http://inthesetimes.com/ittlist/entry/12258/a_move_to_amend_7_dems_take_on_citizens_united_in_u_s__senate/

Occupy the Courts: January 20, 2012
suesactivism@mchsi.com


This is about ENDING CORPORATE POWER. Thanks and I hope that everything goes very well.~Sue Skidmore

From: Move to Amend [mailto:info@MovetoAmend.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 3:07 PM
To: Sue Skidmore
Subject: Occupy the Courts: January 21, 2012

The national campaign to Abolish Corporate Personhood and Defend Democracy. Sign the Petition: http://MoveToAmend.org/motion-to-amend

** * ** Impose democracy on the courts!

Since the Supreme Court handed down its infamous “Citizens United v. FEC” decision on January 20, 2010, Americans everywhere are waking up to what we at Move to Amend have been saying all along: large multi-national corporations, with their insatiable thirst for profits, dominate every aspect of our political and social life. They have crashed our economy, raped our environment, and taken ownership of our ballot boxes in an attempt to turn our democracy into a corporatocracy. Move To Amend is planning bold action to mark this notorious date — Occupy the Courts — a one day occupation on Friday January 20, 2012, of the Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States and as many of the 89 U.S. District Court Buildings as we can. Inspired by Dr. Cornell West, who was arrested on the steps of the Supreme Court last month, Move to Amend will lead the charge on the judiciary which created — and continues to expand — corporate personhood rights.

Colorado Move To Amend co-chair Steve Justino conceived this idea and has agreed to coordinate the effort. There are lots of details to attend to: permits need to be requested, guest speakers and local celebrities need to be invited, and promotional activities need to be started — to name just a few. "Money Is Not Speech! Corporations Are Not People!" We’re depending on you to help make this a success! For more information or to get started planning your Occupy the Courts event, contact us. Americans across the country are on the march, and they are marching OUR way. They carry signs that say, “Corporations are NOT people! Money is NOT Speech!” And they are chanting those truths at the top of their lungs! The time has come to make these truths evident to the courts. We'll be adding tools and resources to our website at
Please get involved and help us make this action the huge success that — for the sake of our country — it needs to be, please contact us, and get started right away!

We can't do it without you, Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, David Cobb, Nancy Price, Lisa Graves, Laura Bonham, Ben Manski, Jerome Scott and George Friday

**Move to Amend Executive Committee**

PS - Next week on November 9 we're holding house parties across the country.

Find a house party near you. The purpose of these parties is to plan our local actions for the anniversary of Citizens United. There are federal court houses in every state. Attend a house party and suggest the local action of your community be to join Move to Amend in Occupying the Courts on January 20! Move to Amend P.O. Box 260217

Madison, WI 53726-0217

United States End Corporate Rule. Legalize Democracy. **Move to Amend**. We're on Facebook & Twitter!

Amendment campaign coast to coast

Jonah, **Public Citizen** amendment@citizen.org via uark.edu to jbennet

Dick,

This past Wednesday night, We the People mobilized to reclaim our Constitution and our democracy for its human citizens, the ones who vote in elections.

More than 200 groups gathered in living rooms, university classrooms, interfaith centers, cafes and more than a dozen Occupy sites to organize for a constitutional amendment to undo the Supreme Court’s ruling that lets corporations spend as much as they want to influence elections.

These patriots, coming together in 42 states around the nation, were motivated by the determined and inspiring words of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). And they heard from their fellow citizens in Boulder, Colorado, who organized to pass a referendum by a stunning 3-to-1 margin demanding a constitutional amendment.

Read about the gatherings on our blog post, where you can find a link to Senator Sanders’ remarks and learn more about how the people in Boulder grew their movement.

And watch a recording of the webcast that kicked off the house parties here.

Then the groups began planning to organize in their own communities for a nationwide day of action on January 20, 2012, the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court’s outrageous decision in Citizens United v. FEC.

This national movement for a constitutional amendment to reverse Citizens United needs your help. We will be holding house parties and organizing meetings nationwide again during the week of December
12. Stay tuned for more information.

This isn’t going to be easy. And the powerful interests that benefit from the Citizens United decision will be opposing us every step of the way. But as Senator Sanders told us Wednesday night, this movement is about saying “Enough is enough!” and reclaiming our democracy from those who have turned elections into just another commodity.

Let’s get to work!
Jonah Minkoff-Zern
Public Citizen’s Democracy Is For People Team

“The Vote Heard Round the World”
from: Move to Amend [mailto:info@MovetoAmend.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2011 6:07 AM
To: Sue Skidmore
Subject: The Vote Heard Round the World

The national campaign to Abolish Corporate Personhood and Demand Democracy.* * * We did it Sue! Yesterday the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to support Move to Amend's resolution calling on Congress to amend the Constitution to clearly establish that only living persons -- not corporations -- are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not the same as free speech. The vote makes Los Angeles the first major city in the U.S. to call for an end to all corporate constitutional rights!

In a press conference after the vote, Council President Eric Garcetti stated:"I want to thank Move to Amend and this entire coalition that has come together... Every struggle to amend the constitution began as just a group of regular Americans who wanted to end slavery, who thought women should vote, who believed that if you're old enough to be drafted, you should be old enough to vote. These are how American amendments move forward from the grassroots when Americans say enough is enough. We're very proud to come together and send a message but more than that, this becomes the official position of the City of Los Angeles, we will officially lobby for this. I also chair a group which oversees all the Democratic mayors and council members in the country and we're going to share this with all our 3,000 members and we hope to see this start here in the west and sweep the nation until one day we do have a constitutional amendment which will return the power to the people." Click here to watch the press conference video! Our goal is for 50 towns and cities to put Move to Amend’s resolution on the ballot for the Presidential election in November, 2012. Let's use this great victory in LA to keep the momentum going in the months ahead as more communities step up to take a stand. Let us know if you want to work with us to put a resolution on the ballot in your community.

Onward for democracy!Ben Manski, David Cobb, George Friday, Jerome Scott, Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Laura Bonham, Lisa Graves, and Nancy Price
Move to Amend Executive Committee

P.S. - Occupy the Courts (a one day occupation of Federal courthouses across the country, including the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., on Friday January 20, 2012) is taking off! New cities and Occupy partners are coming on board every day. Click here to view the map of participating cities and sign up to join Move to Amend volunteers across the USA as we lead the charge on the judiciary which
created — and continues to expand — corporate personhood rights.

P.P.S. - Host or attend an organizing party in your home or community space next week to begin planning your local action for January. We are pleased to announce that a renowned, veteran fighter for democracy, Jim Hightower, will be joining us in a web and telephone address to the guests at your organizing party.

Move to Amend Coalition P.O. Box 260217 Madison, WI 53726-0217 United States End Corporate Rule. Legalize Democracy. Move to Amend. We're on Facebook & Twitter! --To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list. Sign up to receive our future emails. Sign the Petition: http://MoveToAmend.org/motion-to-amend

END CORPORATE PERSONHOOD NEWSLETTER #2