



1291
December 7, 2011

Mayor Sam Adams, members of the Portland City Council,

Thank you for allowing me a few minutes to address the concerns which people have regarding corporate personhood and the doctrine that money is equal to speech.

Last year, the US Supreme Court once again acted to increase corporate power over the democratic aspirations of "We the People" when it issued its Citizens United v FEC decision. It once again erroneously declared that corporations are people with the human rights of people. That decision has unleashed a torrent of corporate money into the political system. We will see the effects of that on democracy in full force in 2012.

While the American people have struggled for two hundred plus years to increase the number of peoples covered by the Bill of Rights, corporations have gone to the court system and had human rights given to them via judicial declarations.

At the founding of our nation, corporations were subject to great restrictions. They had obligations and responsibilities. Today they have only one obligation and responsibility – increasing shareholder value.

The US Supreme Court has granted corporations rights to free speech (1st Amendment), due process and equal protection of the law (14th Amendment). The court also has said that they cannot to be subject to takings, searches and seizures, random inspections, or double jeopardy, and have a right to trial by jury in both criminal and civil cases. All these rights are rights of the people which have been given to corporations by the courts.

And the court decision in Citizens United was not the first decision to give 1st amendment rights to corporations. In the 1970s they disallowed restrictions on corporate funding of election campaigns in their Buckley vs Valeo as well as their First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti decisions.

Because the courts have granted corporations more and more of our rights, we must amend the constitution, not only to overturn Citizens United but also to overturn all of the other court decisions giving our rights away.

The Alliance for Democracy and Move to Amend Portland ask that the Portland City Council refer this measure to Portland voters in the November 2012 election.

RESOLVED, the People of the City of Portland, Oregon call for amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Note that similar language has already been approved by voters in Madison WI by a 84% majority, in Boulder CO with a 75% majority and in Missoula MO, also with a 75% majority. Just yesterday the city council in Los Angeles approved a resolution with the same purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

David e. Delk, President

Alliance for Democracy, Portland Chapter (www.afd-pdx.org)

Move to Amend Portland (www.movetoamendpdx.org)

Parsons, Susan

From: David Delk [davidafd@ymail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 12:16 PM

To: Parsons, Susan

Subject: City council meeting Dec 7th. 2011

Hi Susan,

This will confirm that I will speak before City Council prior to their meeting on wednesday, Dec. 7th, 2011 for 3 minutes.

My topic will be ending corporate personhood and a city council referral to the voters.

BTW, what is your phone number? Should others who want to testify call you or ????

Many thanks,

David e. Delk | 503.232.5495 | Alliance for Democracy | www.afd-pdx.org | Move to Amend Portland
www.movetoamendpdx.org

11/21/2011

1291-

Request of David Delk to address Council regarding ending corporate personhood
and a City Council referral to the voters (Communication)

DEC 07 2011

PLACED ON FILE

Filed DEC 02 2011

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		