



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to:** amending the U.S. Constitution via congressional action or
2 constitutional convention to establish that corporations are not entitled to
3 constitutional rights of natural persons and that money is not speech.

4 Whereas, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished
5 American value; and the people's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern,
6 and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is
7 guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and

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

10 Whereas, corporations are not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, and the
11 people have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have the people
12 decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of the people of
13 the United States; and

14 Whereas, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court
15 justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied the peoples'

1 exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with constitutional
2 protections intended for the people; and

3 Whereas, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of political rights upon corporations
4 usurps basic human and constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons; and

5 Whereas, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and
6 therefore they do not vote in elections and should not be categorized as persons for
7 purposes related to elections for public office; and

8 Whereas, the recent Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal*
9 *Election Commission*, that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the
10 electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate
11 spending to influence elections, candidate selection, and policy decisions, and to
12 sway votes, and forces elected officials to divert their attention from the peoples'
13 business, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to
14 ensure competitive campaign funds for their own reelections; and

15 Whereas, tens of thousands of people, organizations, and municipalities across
16 the nation are joining with the Move to Amend movement to call for an amendment
17 to the U.S. Constitution to abolish corporate constitutional rights and the doctrine
18 of money as free speech; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the U.S.
20 Constitution be amended to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that
21 human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutionally protected
22 political speech; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin legislature and the people of Wisconsin give the
24 Congress one year—365 days—from the date on which a total of at least two-thirds

1 of the states have adopted similar Move to Amend resolutions to send the Move to
2 Amend Amendment to the states for ratification; and

3 ***Resolved, That*** if Congress has not sent the Move to Amend amendment to the
4 states for ratification within that year, the legislature of Wisconsin convenes a
5 national constitutional convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the
6 express purpose of adopting the Move to Amend Amendment; and

7 ***Resolved, That*** the state of Wisconsin calls on other states and jurisdictions
8 to join with it in this action by enacting similar resolutions.

9 (END)