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To the Honorable Members of the United States Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations and elected officials, call upon you to pass a constitutional amendment to reverse the United States Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), which declared that corporations enjoy the First Amendment political rights of natural persons and toppled dozens of state and federal laws and many decades of judicial precedent.

This radical departure from democratic values has already brought a torrent of corporate money, much of it secret, into American politics, fundamentally distorting public elections and campaigns for public office. The decision poses a direct and dramatic threat to government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

By bringing corporations into the heart of the political process, *Citizens United* changes the character of democracy. United States Supreme Court Justices, from Chief Justice John Marshall to Chief Justice William Rehnquist to the four dissenting justices in *Citizens United v. FEC*, have rejected the claim that corporations have political rights.

Corporations enjoy special state-conferred economic and legal advantages not enjoyed by natural persons, including limited liability of the shareholders, perpetual life of the corporation itself, and favorable treatment of the accumulation and distribution of assets. These advantages permit corporations to amass vast sums of money that are spent properly for economic purposes but not for the purposes of intervening in electoral politics and entrenching corporate power.

Article V of the United States Constitution empowers the people, the states and the Congress to use the constitutional amending process to protect republican self-government. This power has repeatedly been used by the people when the Supreme Court has undermined the progress of popular democracy.

We therefore call upon the United States Congress to propose and send to the states for ratification as soon as is practicable a constitutional amendment to reverse this decision and restore fair elections and democratic sovereignty to the states and to the people.