



State of Wisconsin
2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0305/2
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**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 81**

February 18, 2014 – Offered by Representatives GENRICH and C. TAYLOR.

1 **Relating to:** amending the U.S. Constitution via constitutional convention to
2 establish that corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights of natural
3 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

1 Whereas, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court
2 justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied the peoples’
3 exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with constitutional
4 protections intended for the people; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin legislature applies for a national constitutional
2 convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution for the express purpose of
3 adopting the Move to Amend amendment; and, be it further

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

6

(END)