

By: Strama

H.R. No. 230

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The five-four decision by the United States Supreme  
2 Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* swept away  
3 a century of tradition limiting corporate spending in elections,  
4 thus unleashing a torrent of large campaign contributions by  
5 corporations and the super rich; and

6           WHEREAS, On January 21, 2010, the narrow majority of justices  
7 in *Citizens United* not only overturned several key provisions of  
8 the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 but also reversed a  
9 number of previous Supreme Court decisions that established  
10 constitutional justification for campaign finance limitations as a  
11 means of deterring corruption and the appearance of corruption; and

12           WHEREAS, *Citizens United* holds that corporations are people  
13 with rights to free speech under the United States Constitution,  
14 and it equates money with speech; as four Supreme Court justices  
15 noted in their dissenting opinion, however, the distinction between  
16 corporations and natural persons is significant; corporations are  
17 not members of society, and they cannot vote or run for office;  
18 moreover, they may be managed and controlled by citizens of foreign  
19 countries, and their interests may conflict in fundamental ways  
20 with the interests of eligible voters; and

21           WHEREAS, Since the nation's founding, the general public and  
22 statesmen alike have recognized that corporations with vast  
23 financial resources are capable of drowning out the voices of  
24 individuals in the political sphere, thereby undermining the

1 democratic process; the unprecedented flood of political  
2 expenditures in the wake of *Citizens United* poses a threat to our  
3 republic that can best be remedied through recourse to the  
4 constitutional amendment process described in Article V of the  
5 United States Constitution; now, therefore, be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
7 Legislature hereby express strong opposition to the United States  
8 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election*  
9 *Commission* and respectfully urge the United States Congress to  
10 propose and send to the states for ratification an amendment to the  
11 United States Constitution restoring republican democracy to the  
12 people of the United States by clarifying the distinction between  
13 the rights of natural persons and the rights of corporations,  
14 thereby preserving the power of Congress and the states to limit  
15 corporate influence on the outcome of elections; and, be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of  
17 Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the  
18 president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and  
19 the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States  
20 Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress  
21 with the request that this resolution be entered in the  
22 Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United  
23 States of America.