

2012

May 16<sup>th</sup>,

Dear Paso Robles City Council,

On Jan, 2010 the Supreme Court ruled in Citizen's United vs. the Federal Elections Commission that money is the equivalent of Constitutionally protected free speech and as such cannot be regulated. When combined with other court rulings over the last hundred and fifty years that have given corporations the rights and Constitutional protections intended for American citizens, the result is a "democratic" process warped by the enormous flow of money to influence elections in ways that rarely benefit the common good.

Most Constitutional scholars believe that the courts are in error; corporations are not people and money is not speech. This is not a partisan, liberal or conservative issue. It affects us all when vast amounts of money can speak loudly enough to drown out the voices of millions of citizens who do not have such resources.

**Move To Amend (MTA)**, a national grassroots movement, is calling for a Constitutional amendment that would establish once and for all that corporations are not people, and money is not speech.

**Move To Amend of San Luis Obispo County (MTA-SLOCo)** is the local affiliate of MTA's national organization. Our goal is to educate our neighbors about this important issue, which directly and indirectly affects our lives, from the national economy to the local infrastructure.

We believe that most Americans see the wisdom of this course and want to take action to bring about this change, as scores of other communities across America have already done. We are asking our local government entities to pass resolutions in support of this idea, and by supporting it, mandate our state and federal representatives to act on our concerns and bring this process to fruition.

MTA is working to organize "**Resolutions Week**" **June 11<sup>th</sup>** **through 15<sup>th</sup>**, during which we expect to get over one hundred new cities across the country to pass resolutions, either by popular vote or by city government action. To this end, MTA-SLOCo is approaching our county's city councils, asking you to join us in the effort to return democracy to its rightful course by passing resolutions in support of this Constitutional amendment.

We are asking you to include this topic in the agenda for the meeting on June 5, 2012, allocating, at least 10 minutes to the topic. This is the meeting that comes nearest to Resolutions Week. We would like the opportunity to discuss this possibility with you and enlist your support in our campaign. At that meeting we will ask you to pass a resolution declaring that the City of Paso Robles agrees that corporations are not people and that money does not equal free speech. Also, it would be our privilege to meet with you before then so we can address any questions or reservations you may have about this issue. We realize that Resolutions Week is fast approaching, and we need to move quickly if we are to add our voices to this important event.

We have included a copy of the Resolution we are proposing. It is simple, direct and not subject to manipulation or re-interpretation. Please contact us at the above email or phone numbers so we can schedule a meeting. For more information about Move To Amend, please visit HYPERLINK "<http://www.movetoamend.org/>" [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org)

Thank you for your time, and I hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Gary J Steinmann, President  
Move To Amend of San Luis Obispo County

**Move To Amend Model Initiative  
Resolution**

RESOLVED, the People of Paso Robles , California stand with the Move To Amend campaign and communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights and Money is not speech. Therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the People of Paso Robles, CA , hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

PLEASE CONTACT  
TED LEUWIS  
[REDACTED]

OR  
SUSANNE STADLER  
[REDACTED]

Thank You  
[Signature]