

RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 635

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION DIRECTED AT REGULATING CERTAIN POLITICAL SPEECH BY CORPORATIONS AND LABOR UNIONS.

Whereas, on January 21, 2010 the United States Supreme Court decided the case of Citizens United v. FEC, a case upholding the constitutional right of corporations and labor unions to engage in protected political speech; and

Whereas, United States society and its economy have now developed to such a point that the possibility exists that corporations and labor unions can have a disproportionate effect on political speech due to the large financial resources available to them; and

Whereas, the likelihood of the United States Supreme Court hearing another similar case and reversing its decision in Citizens United is unlikely in the near future; and

Whereas, unregulated and excessive expenditures by any organization could allow corruption of the electoral process and encourage public officials to vote against the interests of their constituents in order to receive financial support; and

Whereas, concentrated wealth should not outweigh the rights of ordinary citizens by using its economic power to influence election outcomes including the selection of candidates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The public is urged to support an amendment to the United States Constitution that will incorporate as an exception to the First Amendment the provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 relating to contributions by corporations and labor unions.
2. This resolution be published on the City of Raleigh internet site and made available to the public and that it be sent to the President and all North Carolina members of Congress.

Adopted: July 3, 2012