

SCR22

Measure Title:	URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AND PASS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION CLARIFYING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND THAT UNLIMITED CAMPAIGN SPENDING IS NOT FREE SPEECH.
Report Title:	United States Constitutional Amendment; Congressional Delegation; Citizens United
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	Hawaii State Association of Counties
Current Referral:	PSM, JDL
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (808) 270~7665 www.hicounties.com





March 7, 2016 TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Michael P. Victorino Michael P. Vita FROM: SUBJECT: HEARING OF MARCH 10, 2016; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 22, URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AND PASS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION CLARIFYING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is urge Hawaii's congressional delegation to propose and pass an amendment to the United States Constitution clarifying that corporations are not people with constitutional rights and that unlimited campaign spending is not free speech.

NOT PEOPLE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND THAT UNLIMITED CAMPAIGN SPENDING IS NOT FREE SPEECH

HSAC supports this measure for the following reasons:

- 1. The majority opinion of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission (2010) held that corporations are people and therefore enjoy the right to free speech under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 2. The constitutional right to free speech should be exclusive to natural persons. Corporations are not natural persons, but rather legal entities granted conditional rights by society through the legislative deliberations of Congress and the states.
- 3. The ruling in *Citizens United* threatens to invalidate the authority of Congress and the states to regulate the influence of corporate power on the political system.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2016:16Testimony:SCR22a_mkz

Council Chair Mike White

Vice-Chair Don S. Guzman

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore Michael P. Victorino

Councilmembers Gladys C. Baisa Robert Carroll Elle Cochran Don Couch Stacy Crivello Riki Hokama



Director of Council Services David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTY OF MAUI 200 S. HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 www.MauiCounty.us

March 8, 2016

TO: Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senate Committee on Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello Councilmember

princello

DATE: March 10, 2016

SUBJECT: SCR 22, URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PROPOSE AND PASS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION CLARIFYING THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND THAT UNLIMITED CAMPAIGN SPENDING IS NOT FREE SPEECH

I **support** SCR 22 for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by the Hawaii State Association of Counties President, and urge you to **support** this measure.



Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee Chair Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair Will Espero

Thursday, 03/10/2016 at 1:20 PM in Room 229 SCR 22 – Relating to United States Constitutional Amendment and *Citizens United*

TESTIMONY Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SCR 22 which would urge Hawaii's congressional delegation to propose and pass an amendment to the United States Constitution clarifying that corporations do not have the same constitutional rights as people and that unlimited campaign spending is not free speech.

This resolution is in response to the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court *Citizens United* v. FEC decision, which has opened the flood gates for unlimited spending by special interest groups via Super PACs. Since the decision, special interest money has been inundating our elections nationally, and here at home. According to filings with the Campaign Spending Commission, during the 2014 election, 29 Super PACs spent just shy of \$8 million trying to influence our state and county races alone. In 2012, one Super PAC alone spent nearly \$4 million to influence the outcome of the mayoral race in the City and County of Honolulu.

This increase of money has drowned the voices of the American people, who, regardless of party or ideology support campaign finance reform. A New York Times and CBS News poll showed that:

- 77% of Americans support limiting campaign contributions
- 78% support limiting the political spending of "independent" groups, such as Super PACs and politically active nonprofits
- 75% support disclosing the identity of donors to independent political groups
- 54% say that political money is NOT free speech protected by the First Amendment

We urge you to pass SCR 22 out of committee. We must ensure the integrity of our democracy with this first step towards meaningful campaign finance reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony supporting SCR 22.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM
Date:	Monday, March 07, 2016 2:48:23 PM
Attachments:	Oahu County Resolution-1.docx

Submitted on: 3/7/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SCR 22 that would urge Hawaii's congressional delegation to propose and pass a proposed amendment to the US Constitution Clarifying that Corporations are not People with Constitutional Rights, and that Unlimited Campaign Spending is not Free Speech. This SCR helps to support the resolution passed by the O'ahu County DPH Convention held in May 2015 that addressed this issue, a copy of which is attached.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

CALLING ON THE U.S. CONGRESS TO AMEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO ENABLE CITIZENS' VOICES TO BE HEARD WITHOUT UNDUE INFLUENCE OF POWERFUL ECONOMIC FORCES

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, government is suppose to be of the people, by the people, and for the people; and

WHEREAS, dependency on the people alone has evolved into a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections, through political campaigns or third-party groups; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States, in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) (Citizens United) removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

WHEREAS, removal of those restrictions has resulted in undue influence of powerful economic forces, which has supplanted the will of the people by undermining the people's ability to choose their political leadership, write their own laws and determine the fate of their state; and

WHEREAS, to correct this situation, the United States constitution must be amended to provide provisions to enable citizen's voices to be heard without undue influence of powerful economic forces; and to address the concerns raised by the Citizens United vs Federal Elections Commission Supreme Court decision; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution provides two methods for proposing amendments: (1) amendments proposed by Congress; and (2) amendments proposed by constitutional convention; and

WHEREAS, both methods require a ratification vote by three-quarters of the states; and the second method of amending the constitution is to allow the states to act when Congress does not; and

Whereas, this resolution is consistent with the O'ahu County Democratic Party of Hawaii platform that supports limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals and, further, that supports the belief that money does not equal "free speech."; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the O'ahu County of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, calls upon Hawaii's congressional representatives to introduce a bill that directs the U.S. Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to include provisions to enable citizens' voices to be heard without undue influence of powerful economic forces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such constitutional amendment addresses the issues of (a) Whether expenditures on candidate elections constitute "speech" that is protected by the constitution; (b) whether independent expenditures on candidate elections "corrupt" the democratic process; and (c) whether the regulation of expenditures advances the public interest to prevent "corruption" and protect the democratic process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that concurrent with the actions of Hawaii's congressional representatives, that the O'ahu County of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, requests the Hawaii state legislature to pass a measure joining other states in calling for a constitutional convention for the purpose of addressing the concerns raised in the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Hawai'i's four congressional representatives; the Governor of the State of Hawaii; the Mayors of all counties; and the other 49 state legislatures.

Submitted on: 3/7/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/8/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Corporations are NOT people! I strongly support SCR 22. Lets get back to the people here, the Corporations are doing fine! Mahalo,

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	robert.carroll@mauicounty.us
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM
Date:	Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:49:35 AM

Submitted on: 3/8/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SCR 22 as mentioned in testimony submitted by HSAC President Mike Victorino.

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Submitted on: 3/8/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this resolution, which would urge Congress to call a Constitutional convention for the sole purpose of putting forth an amendment to address the concerns raised by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. The Supreme Court decision has seriously eroded public confidence in the election process and in government. A survey by the Huffington Post shows that 62% of Americans oppose the decision, particularly the ideas that corporations have the rights of natural persons and that campaign spending constitutes a right which cannot be regulated. Candidates face increasing pressures as money floods into elections. Efforts toward direct Congressional action have ended in gridlock. Two years ago, Congress demonstrated that reaching the two-thirds majority for passage of the Udall Amendment was futile. It would have effectively regulated campaign spending, but Congress could not even reach the number of votes needed for discussion. It is apparent that only grassroots effort will work. Hawaii should join those states which have already sent resolutions to Congress. Please support SCR22. Thank you for considering my testimony.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM*
Date:	Tuesday, March 08, 2016 6:50:13 PM

Submitted on: 3/8/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 3/8/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, SCR 22 and HCR 29, enjoys wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. All Hawaii counties have already passed almost identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national grassroots movement to help restore our precious democracy which has been compromised by the corporate and big money domination of the electoral process. Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misguided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29. Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. As you know, amending the US Constitution is a long and arduous process, but it has been done 27 times. The organization I represent, Move to Amend, is developing a grassroots effort to move forward with the amendment. With affiliates in 20 states, Move to Amend has developed a ten year plan leading to ratification of the amendment. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process. I urge you to expeditiously approve this bill for passage in your Committee. Feel free to copy and paste this language, or to comment in your own words. Even if you cannot get to this before Thursday (actually Wednesday noon for it to be considered in the Thursday meeting) your comments will be entered as part of the record in support of the bill at the later Judiciary Committee Hearing and for the vote in the full Senate. You can use the same comment as soon as HCR 29 is scheduled for a committee hearing in the House. (The site does not allow you submit comments until a hearing is scheduled). I will alert you as soon as I hear that the hearing is scheduled. Mahalo Tlaloc Tokuda

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Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. This will be a long and tedious task, and yet, we must start some time. I urge you to approve this bill in your Committee. Mahalo for your consideration.

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Aloha...I am a registered voter in Hawaii writing in support of SCR 22

SCR 22 and its companion house bill HCR 29, have wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. Hawaii counties have already passed nearly identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national movement to help restore democratic principles which have been compromised by wealthy donors investing huge sums in the electoral process. US Supreme Court decisions, including Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have legitimized the notion that corporations have the same Constitutional rights as individuals, and that campaign spending cannot be regulated. An amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29, could begin to remedy this undemocratic situation.

Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. Though amending the US Constitution is a long and arduous process, a grassroots effort to move this process along has begun. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process.

I urge you to approve this bill for passage in your Committee.

Sincerely, Diana Duff

Captain Cook, Hawaii

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	resource3@astound.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM
Date:	Wednesday, March 09, 2016 9:40:54 AM

Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marvin feldman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am a Hawaii Resident writing in support of SCR 22 SCR 22 and its companion measure HCR 29, enjoys wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. All Hawaii counties have already passed almost identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national grassroots movement to help restore our precious democracy which has been compromised by the corporate and big money domination of the electoral process. Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misguided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29. Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. As you know, amending the US Constitution is a long and arduous process, but it has been done 27 times. The organization I represent, Move to Amend, is developing a grassroots effort to move forward with the amendment. With affiliates in 20 states, Move to Amend has developed a ten year plan leading to ratification of the amendment. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process. I urge you to expeditiously approve this bill for passage in your Committee. Marvin Feldman, Chair Kona Move to Amend

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Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misguided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	<u>yellowbird@hawaii.rr.com</u>
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM
Date:	Wednesday, March 09, 2016 3:22:14 PM

Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Fairchild	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SCR 22 and its companion measure HCR 29, enjoys wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. All Hawaii counties have already passed almost identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national grassroots movement to help restore our precious democracy which has been compromised by the corporate and big money domination of the electoral process. Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misquided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29. Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. As you know, amending the US Constitution is a long and arduous process, but it has been done 27 times. The organization I represent, Move to Amend, is developing a grassroots effort to move forward with the amendment. With affiliates in 20 states, Move to Amend has developed a ten year plan leading to ratification of the amendment. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process. I urge you to expeditiously approve this bill for passage in your Committee.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	kaloli.pt@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM*
Date:	Wednesday, March 09, 2016 6:38:18 PM

Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Strong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	PSMTestimony
Cc:	kshimata@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SCR22 on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM
Date:	Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:06:00 PM

Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Hawaii Resident writing in support of SCR 22 SCR 22 and its companion measure HCR 29, enjoys wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. All Hawaii counties have already passed almost identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national grassroots movement to help restore our democracy, which has been compromised by the corporate and big money domination of the electoral process. Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misguided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29. Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. With affiliates in 20 states, Move to Amend has developed a ten year plan leading to ratification of the amendment. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process. I urge you to expeditiously approve this bill for passage in your Committee.

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Submitted on: 3/9/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Regina Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a Hawaii Resident writing in support of SCR 22 SCR 22 and its companion measure HCR 29, which enjoys wide bipartisan support. HSAC approved a version of SCR 22/HCR 29 as part of its recommended legislative package for the current session. All Hawaii counties have already passed almost identical resolutions. This bill is part of a state and national grassroots movement to help restore our precious democracy which has been compromised by the corporate and big money domination of the electoral process. Recent US Supreme Court decisions, notably Citizens United vs. FEC; McCutcheon vs. FEC; and Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby have entrenched the mistaken notions that corporations have the Constitutional rights of natural persons, and that campaign spending is a form of free speech which cannot be regulated. The only remedy for this misguided trend is an amendment to the US Constitution, such as that called for in SCR 22/HCR 29. Passage of SCR22/HCR 29 will direct Hawaii's Congressional delegation to support such a Constitutional amendment. As you know, amending the US Constitution is a long and arduous process, but it has been done 27 times. The organization I represent, Move to Amend, is developing a grassroots effort to move forward with the amendment. With affiliates in 20 states, Move to Amend has developed a ten year plan leading to ratification of the amendment. Approval of state resolutions such as SCR 22/HCR 29 is an important step in this process.

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Submitted on: 3/10/2016 Testimony for PSM on Mar 10, 2016 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danny H.C. Li	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Money must not be allowed to influence policy. Democracy and involved citizens demand that we put an end to Citizens United decision. Please add my support to the massive electorate majority to roll back the rule by corporations to subvert democracy. Peace & Mahalo.

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