

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**S. R. No. 187**

**Senator Skindell**

**Cosponsors: Senators Tavares, Brown**

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**A R E S O L U T I O N**

To call on legislators at the state and federal 1  
level and other communities and jurisdictions to 2  
support an amendment to the United States 3  
Constitution that would abolish corporate 4  
personhood and the doctrine of money as speech. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, Government of, by, and for the people has long 6  
been a cherished American value, and We the People's inalienable 7  
right of self-government is guaranteed in the United States 8  
Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and 9

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections are essential to democracy 10  
and effective self-governance; and 11

WHEREAS, Persons are rightfully recognized as human beings 12  
whose essential needs include clean water and safe and secure 13  
food; and 14

WHEREAS, Corporations are entirely human-made legal 15  
entities created by express permission of We the People and our 16  
government; and 17

WHEREAS, Corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist 18  
simultaneously in many nations, need only profit for survival, 19  
and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the 20

government of We the People; and 21

WHEREAS, The great wealth of large corporations allows 22  
them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings 23  
and communities, thus denying We the People's exercise of our 24  
constitutional rights; and 25

WHEREAS, Corporations are not mentioned in the 26  
Constitution, and We the People have never granted 27  
constitutional rights to corporations, nor have we decreed 28  
that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority 29  
of We the People of the United States; and 30

WHEREAS, Interpretation of the United States 31  
Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include 32  
corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We the 33  
People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations 34  
with constitutional protections intended for We the People; 35  
and 36

WHEREAS, The judicial bestowal of civil and political 37  
rights upon corporations can usurp basic human and 38  
constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also 39  
empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments 40  
for adopting laws that violate "corporate rights," even when 41  
those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human 42  
persons and communities; and 43

WHEREAS, Corporations are not and never have been human 44  
beings, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human 45  
beings and governments as our legal creations; and 46

WHEREAS, The recent decision of the United States 47  
Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election* 48  
*Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), which rolled back the legal 49  
limits on spending in the electoral process, creates an 50  
unequal playing field and allows unlimited spending by 51  
wealthy individuals, corporations, and other entities to 52

influence elections, candidate selection, and policy 53  
decisions and to sway votes and compels elected officials to 54  
divert their attention from the People's business or even to 55  
vote against the interest of their human constituents in 56  
order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own 57  
reelection; and 58

WHEREAS, The judicial interpretation that construes 59  
spending money in political campaigns as speech is contrary 60  
to the notion of one person, one vote and allows those with 61  
the most money to have an unfair advantage in a political 62  
system that should ensure that all citizens have equal access 63  
to the political process and an equal ability to influence 64  
the outcome of elections; and 65

WHEREAS, Money is property, not speech; and 66

WHEREAS, Large corporations own most of America's mass 67  
media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly 68  
their political agenda and to convince Americans that their 69  
primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign 70  
citizens with rights and responsibilities within our 71  
democracy; and 72

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of people and municipalities 73  
across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign 74  
to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to 75  
abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as 76  
speech; now therefore be it 77

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio calls on 78  
legislators at the state and federal levels to join the tens 79  
of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations, and local 80  
governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign 81  
to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to 82  
abolish corporate personhood and the doctrine of money as 83  
speech and thereby return our democracy, our elections, and 84

our communities to America's human persons and thus claim our 85  
sovereign right of self-governance; and be it further 86

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio calls on 87  
other communities and jurisdictions to join with it in this 88  
action by adopting similar resolutions; and be it further 89

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Ohio supports 90  
education to increase public awareness of the threats to our 91  
democracy posed by corporate personhood and encourages lively 92  
discussion to build understanding and consensus to take 93  
appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically 94  
respond to these threats; and be it further 95

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 96  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the 97  
House of Representatives of the State of Ohio and to Ohio's 98  
congressional delegation. 99