TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I, Julie Smith, duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Chatham, hereby certify the following Article was adopted at the May 9, 2011 Annual Town Meeting:

Article 22 – Petition to Amend United States Constitution

To see if the Town will vote to ask the State Legislature to petition the United States Congress to initiate the process of an amendment to the United States Constitution which would allow Congress and the states to ban altogether or impose reasonable limits on the expenditure of money by corporations to influence elections.

Explanation: On January 21, 2010, the United States Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, ruled that the free speech rights of corporations rendered unconstitutional restrictions on the expenditure of money by corporations in an election contest, restrictions which had been part of federal law since 1907. This decision opened the door to unlimited corporate money in federal, state and local elections, and it is estimated that 15% of the money spent on the elections in 2010 came from corporate sources. Many of the ads were purchased through corporations set up for that purpose, so that voters would not know who was sponsoring the ads. Since the decision was on constitutional grounds, only a constitutional amendment can overturn it.

(by petition)

Petitioner Edmund Robinson moved that the Town will vote to ask the State Legislature to petition the United States Congress to initiate the process of an amendment to the United States Constitution which would allow Congress and the states to ban altogether or impose reasonable limits on the expenditure of money by corporations to influence elections.

Board of Selectmen Recommendation: Approve 3-2-0
Finance Committee Recommendation: Disapprove 4-4-0

After successful motion and vote to cut off debate:

VOTE: Voice. In my opinion, the ayes have it, declared the Moderator.

After a request for a hand count:

YES: 175
NO: 78

Article 22 is passed, declared the Moderator.