

Voted: WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the Bill of Rights into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people's laws, and has compromised the integrity of our democratic process by striking down legislation aimed at mitigating the disproportionate influence of money in policy making; and,

WHEREAS, the expenditure of unlimited money in elections threatens to overwhelm our individual voices in the democratic process and to facilitate the undue influence of well-financed special interests in government; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution was adopted and ratified to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations and other artificial entities; and,

WHEREAS, corporations can and do make important contributions to our society using unique advantages that government has granted them, corporations are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established, and are subject to regulation as the people, through their elected representatives, may deem reasonable; and,

WHEREAS, the impact of the Court's decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and others will be felt at the local, state, and federal level as big campaign donors seek to dominate policy making; and,

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to correct clear threats to our democracy and our republican form of self-government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we the citizens of Oxford Massachusetts, petition the U.S. Congress to pass and send to the states an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would affirm that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional rights of human beings, and that Congress, and state and local governments may place limits on political contributions and expenditures from any source.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to every member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation as well as the state representative(s) and state senator(s) representing the town of Oxford.

Carried.