



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon House urges Congress to reform broken campaign finance system *Salem and Eugene Democrats lead effort to end corporate personhood rights, empower citizens*

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives urged Congress to end corporate personhood rights and clarify that money is not equivalent to free speech. Earlier this week, U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D – Mont.) and Tom Udall (D – N.M.) acted on this growing national pressure by proposing constitutional amendments aimed at reforming the campaign finance system.

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court's controversial *Citizens United* ruling granted corporations all the same rights as citizens, which has allowed corporations to make unlimited contributions to political campaigns.

"The *Citizens United* case opened the floodgates for staggering corporate spending to influence elections at all levels of government. It's wrong, and it shakes the foundation of our democracy," said Rep. Brian Clem (D – Salem). "Corporations are spending millions to flood our publicly-owned airwaves with their messages and drown out average people who want a real dialogue."

House Joint Memorial 6 urges Congress to limit political contributions made by individuals, corporations, and associations. It would ensure that corporations are clearly seen as not having the rights of individuals and that money is not equivalent to free speech. This clarification would start to fix the damage done by *Citizens United*.

"The rights designed to protect the citizens of our country are sacred. It's hard for me to believe that corporate interests have found a way to claim that individual rights apply to them," said Representative Paul Holvey (D – Eugene). "Corporations are not people. Money collected by corporations is not free speech. It's time for us to get back to the basics of democracy and empower the American people."

HJM 6 passed the Oregon House with a strong, bipartisan vote of 48 – 11 and now heads to the Senate.

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