
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11—SENATORS SPEARMAN,
JONES AND PARKS

MARCH 18, 2013

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN DIAZ, ELLIOT ANDERSON,
OHRENSCHALL, PIERCE; AIZLEY, HOGAN, MUNFORD AND
SWANK

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to propose an amendment to the
United States Constitution to allow regulation of
independent political expenditures by corporations.
(BDR R-1047)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to propose an
amendment to the United States Constitution to allow the
governments of the United States and the individual states
to regulate and restrict independent political expenditures
by corporations.

- 1 WHEREAS, The growing influence of large independent political
2 expenditures by corporations is a great and growing concern to the
3 people of the United States and the State of Nevada; and
4 WHEREAS, In a democracy, the assurance of a fair and
5 uncorrupted election process is of the utmost importance, and the
6 Nevada Legislature believes that it is a legitimate and vital role of
7 government to regulate independent political expenditures by
8 corporations; and
9 WHEREAS, In fulfillment of this important role, the government
10 of the United States and a majority of states have regulated and
11 restricted independent political expenditures by corporations; and



1 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States, in *Citizens*
2 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), held
3 that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits
4 Congress and the states from banning independent political
5 expenditures by corporations; and

6 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* overturned a long-standing
7 precedent of restricting independent political expenditures by
8 corporations; and

9 WHEREAS, *Citizens United* has served as a precedent for further
10 legal decisions harming our democratic system of government,
11 including *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*, 132 S. Ct.
12 2490 (2012), which struck down a long-standing Montana campaign
13 finance law, denying a state the right to regulate independent
14 political expenditures by corporations in state elections; and

15 WHEREAS, The people of Nevada and all other states should
16 have the power to limit by law the influence of money in their
17 political systems; and

18 WHEREAS, In the wake of *Citizens United*, there has been an
19 exponential increase in large independent political expenditures by
20 corporations which threatens the integrity of the elections process,
21 corrupts our candidates, dilutes the power of individual voters and
22 distorts the public discourse; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
24 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the
25 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Congress of the United States to
26 propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow
27 the governments of the United States and the individual states to
28 regulate and restrict independent political expenditures by
29 corporations; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
31 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
32 States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker
33 of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada
34 Congressional Delegation; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
36 passage.

