



General Assembly

**House Joint Resolution
No. 3**

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 5141



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE AN
AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO
PROTECT THE FREE SPEECH RIGHTS OF PERSONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 WHEREAS, the first amendment to the United States Constitution
2 was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not
3 corporations;

4 WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States
5 Supreme Court has transformed the first amendment into a powerful
6 tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-
7 enacted reforms;

8 WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the first amendment has
9 reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's
10 ruling in Citizens United v. FEC;

11 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
12 United v. FEC overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting

13 corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our
14 elections;

15 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
16 United v. FEC will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our
17 political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in
18 United States history;

19 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens
20 United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used
23 the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously
24 wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the
25 heart of our democracy and self-government.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
27 General Assembly respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
28 United States to propose an amendment to the United States
29 Constitution, for ratification by the states, to provide that corporations
30 are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural
31 persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to
32 influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally
33 protected speech; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
35 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution be
36 transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of
37 Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and all
38 members of the Connecticut congressional delegation.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that free speech rights of natural persons not be attributed to corporations.

House Joint Resolution Bill No. 3

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.

H.J. 3