



Connecticut Chapter
2074 Park St.
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
<http://www.sierraclub.org/connecticut>
Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Committee on Government Administration and Elections
February 29, 2016
Testimony in Opposition to
Senate Joint Resolution No. 33
Resolution Petitioning the United States Congress to Convene an Article V Constitutional
Convention to Overturn the United States Supreme Court's Decision in Citizens United V Federal
Election Commission

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer
Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of
Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission has
created mayhem in our national election processes, and even put at risk the public campaign
funding in Connecticut of which we are so proud. This unconscionable decision, made to satisfy
the personal preferences of 5 conservative justices, but constructed without regard to precedent
and without valid legal foundation, must be overturned.

A constitutional convention might do that. However, there is no mechanism for limiting
the agenda for such a convention. A call for a convention does not in any way define the agenda.
Once convened, the delegates would be free to act on any issue they please without limit or
boundary.

Therefore, we must sadly conclude that the risks of such a convention outweigh the
possible benefits. Many public interest organizations throughout the country have reached the
same conclusion.

We join in the testimony filed by Cheri Quickmire on behalf of Common Cause, and find
the reasons cited there to oppose valid and compelling.

Therefore, the Sierra Club, both the Connecticut Chapter and the national Democracy
Office, must advise that this Resolution calling for such a convention **not** go forward. We
unconditionally advise a vote against.