

HOUSE DOCKET, NO.

[xxxxx]

FILED ON: 08/03/2012

House .

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No.04374

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

NONE

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

[Pin Slip]

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

RESOLUTIONS

1 **WHEREAS**, RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
2 STATES TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION A
3 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND FOR
4 FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE

5 WHEREAS, THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION WAS
6 DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE FREE SPEECH RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, NOT
7 CORPORATIONS;

8 WHEREAS, FOR THE PAST THREE DECADES, A DIVIDED UNITED STATES SUPREME
9 COURT TRANSFORMED THE FIRST AMENDMENT INTO A POWERFUL TOOL FOR
10 CORPORATIONS SEEKING TO EVADE AND INVALIDATE DEMOCRATICALLY-
11 ENACTED REFORMS;

12 WHEREAS, THIS CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT HAS
13 REACHED ITS EXTREME CONCLUSION IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S
14 RECENT RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED V. FEC;

15 WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED
16 V. FEC OVERTURNED LONGSTANDING PRECEDENT PROHIBITING CORPORATIONS
17 FROM SPENDING THEIR GENERAL TREASURY FUNDS IN OUR ELECTIONS;

18 WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT’S RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED
19 V. FEC WILL NOW UNLEASH A TORRENT OF CORPORATE MONEY IN OUR
20 POLITICAL PROCESS UNMATCHED BY ANY CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE TOTALS IN
21 UNITED STATES HISTORY;

22 WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT’S RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED
23 V. FEC PRESENTS A SERIOUS AND DIRECT THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY;

24 WHEREAS, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE PREVIOUSLY USED THE
25 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS TO CORRECT THOSE EGREGIOUSLY
26 WRONG DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT THAT GO TO THE
27 HEART OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT; THEREFORE BE IT

28 RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEREBY
29 CALLS UPON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS AND SEND TO THE STATES
30 FOR RATIFICATION A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTORE THE FIRST
31 AMENDMENT AND FAIR ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE; AND BE IT FURTHER

32 RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE FORWARDED BY THE
33 CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
34 STATES, THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF EACH BRANCH OF CONGRESS AND TO THE
35 MEMBERS OF THOSE BRANCHES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF
36 MASSACHUSETTS.