

HOUSE No. 63

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 adoption of the accompanying proposal for constitutional amendment:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to declare that corporations are not people, money is not speech.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 63

By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, House, No. 63) of Paul W. Mark, Jeffrey N. Roy and Chris Walsh for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to declare rights afforded to the human inhabitants of the Commonwealth are not applicable to corporations, limited liability companies or any other corporate entities. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 933 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to declare that corporations are not people, money is not speech.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

- 1 Corporations are not people and may be regulated. The rights afforded to the human
- 2 inhabitants of the commonwealth, under this constitution, are not applicable to corporations,
- 3 limited liability companies or any other corporate entity. Any references to persons, citizens,
- 4 inhabitants, subjects, men, people, individuals or like terms in this constitution, are not to be

5 construed in any way to be referring to a corporation, limited liability company or any other
6 corporate entities.

7 Corporations, limited liability companies and any other corporate entity shall do business
8 in this state under the regulation of laws passed by the general court which shall set the rights of
9 such entities to do business to promote the common good and strengthen the social compact of
10 this commonwealth.

11 Money is not free speech and may be regulated. To protect our political process and the
12 functioning of government to serve in the best interests of the citizens of the commonwealth,
13 money shall not be considered free speech. The general court shall have the power to regulate the
14 raising and spending of money and in-kind equivalents for any primary or election of a public
15 official and for ballot measures. This shall include regulation of any advertising for or against
16 any candidate in a primary or election for public office and any ballot measure.

17 Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to restrain the liberty of the
18 press.