

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DISCONTENT WITH THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING IN CITIZENS UNITED AND IMPLOING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN REGULATIONS AND ENHANCE DISCLOSURE OF CORPORATE AND UNION ELECTION SPENDING

Introduced By: Senators Sheehan, Lenihan, Raptakis, Miller, and Metts

Date Introduced: March 18, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

1 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court ruled in Citizens United v. Federal Election
2 Commission that Congress cannot restrict the ability of corporations and unions to advertise on
3 behalf of, or in opposition to, a political candidate; and

4 WHEREAS, Spending does influence elections, and with the ability of large corporations
5 to raise almost unlimited funds and of unions to generate large sums through dues, candidates
6 who express and support the corporate or union agenda and promote their best interest will be
7 able to finance their campaigns well above and beyond the means of candidates who are “for the
8 people”; and

9 WHEREAS, The democracy of these United States was built upon the bedrock principle
10 that all men and women are equal and have an equal voice, and by uniting in their common
11 purpose, individuals have had the power and ability to change history; and

12 WHEREAS, Corporations are not a united voice “for the people.” They oftentimes
13 reflect the needs of just one person with one self-interested cause, and they have now acquired the
14 ability to amplify that voice through unlimited spending; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
16 hereby expresses its dissatisfaction with the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby respectfully requests the Congress of the United

1 States to enact legislation to strengthen regulations and enhance disclosure of corporate and union
2 election spending; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
4 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker
5 of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of this state's Congressional
6 Delegation.

=====
LC02229
=====