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Bullard
1/31/12

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, French, Ellis, Egan, Paskvan

Introduced:

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to work to amend the Constitution of the United States to prohibit corporations, unions, and individuals from making unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS a vast majority of Americans recognize that the influence of large contributions by corporations, wealthy individuals, and organizations harms the ability of average citizens to have a voice in their own government; and

WHEREAS the narrow five to four decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S. Ct. 876 (2010), allows corporations and unions to make unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing a candidate for public office; and

WHEREAS unlimited independent expenditures from corporations and unions were prohibited until the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*; and

1 **WHEREAS** much of the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent by corporations
2 and unions since the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal
3 Election Commission is going to negative ads, which often misinform voters rather than lead
4 to a productive discussion of the states' and nation's most important issues; and

5 **WHEREAS**, unless the United States Supreme Court reverses its ruling, the only way
6 to reverse the harmful effects of the Citizens United ruling is to amend the Constitution of the
7 United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, while not addressed by the United States Supreme Court's ruling in
9 Citizens United, unlimited independent expenditures made by individuals also distort the
10 political process and ability of all American citizens to have an equal voice in government;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
12 Congress and the President of the United States to work across party lines to propose a
13 constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations, unions, and individuals from making
14 unlimited independent expenditures.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
16 the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.
17 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
18 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 112th United States Congress; and the
19 presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.