



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs
committee name

Committee on HJR 33, dated 2-14-12
bill # / subject public hearing date

I am so glad to support HJR 33 and I want to thank the folks who created this bill.

I love my country and I am saddened by our national crisis of corruption. HJR 33 is a step in the right direction toward fixing this grave issue threatening our republic.

I am not a corporation, union or wealthy individual. I am a living, breathing human being with a conscience, morals and a strong sense of patriotism towards my country. It's essential that we have a government that represents the people.

I follow the sacred prayer, "Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from evil." Throwing any sum of money at our politicians is corruption. It's immoral. We are not the United States of Mexico. We are the U.S. of America. I take a great deal of pride in that!

Trust needs to be restored in America. On a good day, Congress has an approval rating of 12%. On a bad day, their approval rating is 9%. People in our country feel that there is a love affair going on between U.S. politicians and corporate special interests, and we, the people, get cast aside. In our political system money speaks, and since many of us cannot compete with the enormous sums of money of corporate interests, politicians don't care about us or listen to us. This is a travesty.

With all due respect, spending huge sums of money on politicians doesn't buy better leaders. Politicians are in a vicious cycle of having to spend vast amounts of time raising enormous sums of money from corporations and unions. This robs leaders of the experience of actually talking to people. If the government is spending its time with corporations and very little with people, guess who will be heard and fairly represented. It won't be the people. It is disrespectful to our country, our leaders and our citizens to auction our leaders off.

Money does not equal free speech. It represents speech at a hug cost to our country. Global corporations are not citizens of our country. They can pack up and resettle in China at any time. Does that mean our country could be sold to China? It's a question of national security worth discussing. Could a Chinese CEO influence American policy? Perhaps if they donated enough money to the President's re-election campaign.

Again, the prayer, "Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from evil." If we let corporations, unions and special interests make unlimited expenditures supporting or opposing candidates for public office, we risk losing our entire democracy. I am an American. I am proud of my country.

I want people to like and respect their politicians and to have some faith in the political system.

Signed: Katharine Veh
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

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