

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GARA, Drummond, Kawasaki, Josephson, Tarr, Kito, Claman

Introduced: 2/4/15

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to work to**
2 **amend the Constitution of the United States to prohibit corporations, outside groups,**
3 **unions, and other organizations from making unlimited independent expenditures**
4 **supporting or opposing candidates for public office.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** a vast majority of Americans recognize that the influence of unlimited
7 contributions by corporations, outside groups, unions, and other organizations harms the
8 ability of average citizens to have a voice in their own government; and

9 **WHEREAS** the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v.
10 Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), allows corporations, outside groups,
11 unions, and other organizations to make unlimited independent expenditures supporting or
12 opposing a candidate for public office; and

13 **WHEREAS** states and the United States Congress were permitted to ban unlimited
14 independent expenditures from corporations, unions, and other organizations until the ruling
15 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 unions, and other organizations since the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in
3 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission is going to negative advertisements, which
4 often misinform voters rather than lead to a productive discussion of the state's and nation's
5 most important issues; and

6 **WHEREAS** roughly 80 percent of the independent expenditures authorized by
7 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission are made to purchase negative
8 advertisements, which alienate voters; and

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

12 **WHEREAS** a record-breaking \$43,000,000 dollars in independent expenditures was
13 made in the 2014 United States Senate race in this state, making it the sixth most expensive
14 United States Senate race since the United States Supreme Court made its ruling in Citizens
15 United;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
17 Congress and the President of the United States to work across party lines to propose a
18 constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations, outside groups, unions, and other
19 organizations from making unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing
20 candidates for public office and to send the amendment to the states for approval.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
22 the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
23 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
24 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 114th United States Congress; and the
25 presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.