

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Gara, Kawasaki, Tuck, Kito, Drummond, Guttenberg

Introduced: 2/24/16

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the overturning of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in**
2 **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010); and urging the**
3 **United States Congress to pass legislation overturning the decision of the United States**
4 **Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, thereby restoring**
5 **free and fair elections in the United States.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** elections in this nation should be free from the corrupting influence of
8 excessive spending and fair enough that any citizen may be elected to office; and

9 **WHEREAS** George Washington, the first President of the United States, stated, "The
10 basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions
11 of government"; and

12 **WHEREAS** James Madison, in Federalist No. 52, stated the intention of the framers
13 of the Constitution of the United States that the United States Congress should be "dependent
14 on the people alone"; and

15 **WHEREAS** that dependency on the people alone has evolved into a dependency on

1 those who spend excessively in elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

2 **WHEREAS** the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v.
3 Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), removed restrictions on amounts of
4 independent political spending; and

5 **WHEREAS** the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the unjust influence of
6 powerful economic forces that have supplanted the will of the people by undermining their
7 ability to choose their political leadership, write their own laws, and determine the fate of
8 their own state;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature, together with the people of the
10 state, support overturning the decision of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United
11 v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), and urge the United States Congress to
12 pass legislation overturning Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission thereby restoring
13 free and fair elections in the United States by removing the corrupting influence of excessive
14 spending in our electoral process.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
16 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States and
17 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
18 Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
19 Honorable Orrin Hatch, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa
20 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
21 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.