

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Ellis

Introduced: 1/21/15

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, unions, and**
3 **individuals from making unlimited independent expenditures supporting or opposing**
4 **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 large
7 contributions by corporations, wealthy individuals, and organizations harms the ability of
8 average citizens to have a voice in their own government; and

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

13 **WHEREAS** unlimited independent expenditures from corporations and unions to
14 advocate for or against candidates were prohibited until the ruling of the United States
15 Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and

1 **WHEREAS** the hundreds of millions of dollars in spending by corporations and
2 unions since the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in Citizens United v. Federal
3 Election Commission has contributed to a dramatic increase in the number of negative ads,
4 which often misinform voters rather than lead to a productive discussion of the state's and
5 nation's most important issues; and

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

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

13 **WHEREAS** an unprecedented amount, \$43,000,000 in independent expenditures, was
14 spent in the state's 2014 election for United States senator, ranking it sixth amongst the most
15 expensive senate races since the Citizens United ruling; and

16 **WHEREAS** the state's 2014 election for United States senator was the most expensive
17 election contest in United States history by the amount spent for each voter;

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
19 Congress and the President of the United States to work across party lines to propose a
20 constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations, unions, and individuals from making
21 unlimited independent expenditures to advocate for or against candidates.

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