

HB

244

<TARGET><BILL>HB 244</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
244</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

HOUSE BILL NO. 244

"An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls."

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

* **Section 1.** AS 06.05.301(b) is amended to read:

(b) The provisions of AS 10.06 (Alaska Corporations Code) apply to state banks, except those provisions inconsistent with this chapter.

The provisions inconsistent with this chapter include AS 10.06.010(a)(4) - (8) [AS 10.06.010(4) - (8)], 10.06.105(a) and (d), 10.06.325, 10.06.356, 10.06.358 - 10.06.360, 10.06.370, 10.06.385 - 10.06.388, 10.06.420(i), 10.06.430, 10.06.453, 10.06.460(b), 10.06.485, 10.06.522 - 10.06.868, 10.06.915, 10.06.960, and 10.06.990(31) and (37).

* **Sec. 2.** AS 10.06.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section or another provision of this chapter to the contrary, a corporation organized under this chapter is not considered a person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of

- (1) an election for public office; or
- (2) an initiative, a referendum, or a recall.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 10.50 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 10.50.920. Public office elections.

Notwithstanding another provision of this chapter to the contrary, a limited liability company organized under this chapter is not considered a person for the purpose of influencing the outcome of

- (1) an election for public office; or
- (2) an initiative, a referendum, or a recall.



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, March 02, 2012

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee

From: Representative Scott Kawasaki

RE: House Bill 244

I respectfully request that you schedule a hearing this session in the House State Affairs Committee for House Bill 244 "An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls."

A current version of the bill, a sponsor statement and pertinent background information is included. This packet is deficient of any fiscal notes, and a sectional analysis at this time.

There are several people who may wish to testify from various locations around the state and nation. Please provide teleconferencing capabilities in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Mat-Su Legislative Information Offices.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Mindy O'Neill directly at 465-6249.



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

HB 244 Sponsor Statement Corporations Not "Persons" in Elections

"An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls."

House Bill 244 will prohibit corporations from contributing to elections. This bill will amend state law that allows corporations to be recognized as persons and therefore contribute to campaigns with unlimited financial contributions.

In a 5-4 decision announced on January 21st, the US Supreme Court ruled that corporations have the same rights as "people" to influence elections. That ruling reversed decades of settled Supreme Court precedent saying states could limit the election spending of corporations. If HB 244 was enacted tomorrow, this court case would not apply to the Alaska campaign laws.

The people of Alaska expect a fair and due process of elections. Large corporations with large financial resources can disproportionately affect elections by saturating media with advertisements for candidates and ballot questions that support their business position. To prevent corporations from unduly affecting elections, Alaska state law should reflect the people's rights first.

As recently as 2006, Alaskan voters overwhelmingly supported a ballot measure on campaign finance reform that restricted the financial amount of donors. With the *Citizens United* ruling, the Federal government bypassed this initiative, ignoring Alaskans' right to fair and accessible campaigns. Passage of similar legislation by a majority of states could strengthen a future challenge to the Supreme Court's decision that corporations are "persons" under election financing laws.

HB 244 leaves corporations with all other rights to conduct business in Alaska, and only states that corporations cannot be regarded by the courts as persons for purposes of campaign contributions.

Only actual individuals and groups of actual individuals would be able to make contributions with the passage of HB 244, preventing corporations from influencing election for their business purposes.

January 30, 2012

Representative Bob Lynn, Chairman
Alaska House State Affairs Committee
Capitol Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 244

Dear Chairman Lynn and Committee Members:

We, the undersigned, stand united in full support of House Bill No. 244, "An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls." We, the undersigned, thank Representative Scott Kawasaki of Fairbanks, along with the co-sponsors of this bill, for standing up for the citizens of the state of Alaska with this legislation. We, the undersigned, believe corporations are not persons; therefore, should not be allowed to contribute enormous sums of money to political campaigns as it can and does impact the way our legislators conduct the state's business. We, the undersigned, encourage this committee's full support and backing of HB 244 as it is the right and moral thing for the citizens of the state of Alaska.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and our petition plus signatures. May God bless and keep our great state of Alaska!




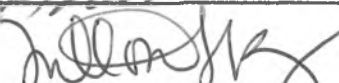
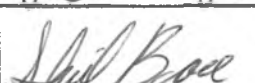
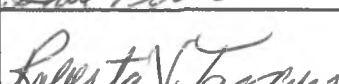
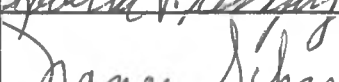
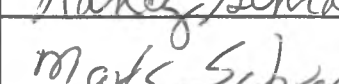

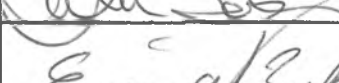
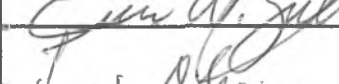

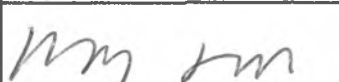
Sincerely,
Citizens of the Central Kenai Peninsula

CC: Representative Peggy Wilson



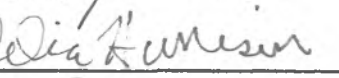






We, the People of the Central Kenai Peninsula, place our signatures to support Representative Kawasaki's House Bill 244 ("An Act Providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls.") for the 27th State Legislature of 2011-2012. This is a wonderful bill for the People of Alaska and it needs to be passed. Thank you!

FULL NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city, state, zip code)	EMAIL	PHONE
Michele Vasquez	Michele Vasquez	PO Box 1150 Kenai AK 99611	Michele.S.Simmons@gmail.com	260-6782
Katharine Veh	Katharine Veh	34506 Commerce St. Soldotna, AK 99669	heyoyveh@yahoo.com	252-4530 260
Gina Beard	Gina D Beard	48625 Prairie Ave. Soldotna AK 99669	ginadawn@aol.com	260-1645
Joy Falls	Joy Falls	117 Deepwood Ct Kenai, AK 99611	JFalls@AOS ALASKA.NET	283-5078
Debbie McKay	Debbie McKay	55441 Chinoak Rd, Kenai 99611	troubad93@gmail.com	776-5745
Dede Pass	Dede Pass	PO Box 877 Kenai 99611	Mazy73@live.com	394-6186
DAN CHAY	Dan Chay	3730 G CERACIA LN Kenai AK 99611	danchay@gmail.com	283-9227
Leigh High	Leigh High	1245 Chinoak Dr Kenai AK 99611		301-1747
Daniel L. Lynch	Daniel L. Lynch	44755 Starling Hwy. #29 Soldotna, AK 99669		
Steve Schoonmaker	Steve Schoonmaker	Box 218 Kasilof AK 99610		907 253-6700
Patrick J. Koivisto	Patrick J. Koivisto	805 Peninsula Ave. #30 Kenai, AK 99611		907 394-7200
KRISTA L TIMLAN	Krista L Timlan	48395 Johns Rd Soldotna, AK 99669	krystaltiline@hotmail.com	260-5277
Phillip North	Phillip North	3810 Wildrose Ave Kenai AK 99611	panorth@alaska.net	283-2644
Amanda North	Amanda North	3810 Wildrose Ave Kenai, AK 99611	panorth@alaska.net	283-2644

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FULL NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city, state, zip code)	EMAIL	PHONE
HARRY HAGLUND		91010 PO Box 131, Kasilof, AK	HSAK13@EMAIL.COM	394.6316
LORA HAGLUND		PO BOX 131, KASLOF, AK	wearestupendous@gmail.com	394.6317
Adam Wyant		Soldotna 223 W. Rockwell	adamwyant28@gmail.com	953-2390
Willow King		Kasilof AK P.O. Box 855 99610	happinessislocated@vahoo.com	394-5883
Sheila Brooks		Soldotna 3426 KAMINSIN AK	moralturpitude@yahoo.com	262-8808
Roberta V. Tanguy		PO Box 34 Soldotna	rvelluc@yahoo.com	260-6284
Nancy Schrag		312 Princess, Kenai		
Mark Schrag		312 Princess, Kenai		283-9382
Arlene Tally		Box 304 Sterling	ajasky@sonline.net	260-3782
Eric W. Zuber		Box 304 Sterling	vickzuber@hotmail.com	260-3782
HEIDI CHAY		P.O. Box 553 Kenai	heidichay@gmail.com	283-9227
DAN CHAY		" "		
Paula		54932 Burdett Rd Kasilof	elouardkeller@yahoo.com	2622829
Reuben Ruff		Soldotna Po box 2597 AK	akry4@hotmail.com	262-0447

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FULL NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city, state, zip code)	EMAIL	PHONE
Amanda J. Burg		527 1st Ave. Kenai, AK, 99611	shedeama@hotmail.com	907-262-0147 907-398-4770
Eliza Eller		54932 Burdock Rd Kaslof	ellers@ionia.org	907-262-7824
Celia Harrison		131 Shady Ln #2	Celia.harrison@yahoo.com	907-399-4221
Joey SPEHA		2455 WAKAYAMA WAY KENAI, AK 99611	JOEY@NORVA.MEJ	907-283-7100
THANKS Everyone (GREAT JOB)				
Eric Sandberg		Box 544 Sterling AK 99611		907 262 1919
Andrew Harsanen		48395 Shaw Rd Solberg Kenai AK	zubgub@hotmail.com	267-5277
Linda Price Albers		5412 N. Dogwood Kenai, AK		335-0515
Steve Albers		5412 N. Dogwood Kenai, AK 99611	dandelion-acres@yahoo.com	
Rhys Durham		5811 Kenai Spur Hwy Kenai, AK 99611		9076902236

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 9:31 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: Support for HB 244

Categories: Red Category

From: Familie Veh [<mailto:hevoyveh@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: Support for HB 244

Dear Rep. Lynn;

I support House Bill No. 244 "An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls." I believe this legislation would be great for the people of Alaska, since corporations are not persons and should not be allowed to contribute enormous sums of money to political campaigns. Please support this bill!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kate Veh
Soldotna, Alaska
260-4669

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:24 PM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: I support HB 244

From: barbara@alaskabike.com [mailto:barbara@alaskabike.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: I support HB 244

Dear Representative Lynn,

I would like to express my support for the House Bill 244 introduced by Rep. Scott Kawasaki. It is my very strong belief that corporations, no matter what their structure, are NOT people, and should NOT enjoy the latitude of influencing our elections. Please represent the liberty-minded people of this state and let us come to our own conclusions about our candidates and elected officials.

Thank you!

Barbara Rowland
Anchorage
223-2327

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 11:08 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: HB 244

From: Sallie Dodd Butters [<mailto:salliewax@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: HB 244

HELP!!!!!! Go forth and prosper...

--

Motley Farm
PO 1223.Homer.Alaska.99603
907-235-5994
cell:907-299-4393

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: HB 244

From: River Song [<mailto:riversong6@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:25 PM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: HB 244

Honorable Representatives Lynn and Wilson,

I am writing you to express my wholehearted support for HB 244.

Simply put, I believe that considering corporations as people for the purposes of influencing elections is a violation of the democratic principles our country and state were founded on.

For what it is worth, I'd be amenable to including non-profit corporations, trade unions, and religious institutions as well.

Please know that I am asking all my friends, acquaintances and family to also support this bill, posting it to my Facebook page, and generally am trying to generate the grass roots support and political cover you need to make this a reality.

Thank you very much,

Douglas A. Stephens
11611 Trails End Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: HB244

-----Original Message-----

From: hrhays@alaska.net [mailto:hrhays@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 5:32 PM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: HB244

I support HB244 sponsored by Rep. Kawasaki. Hugh R. Hays, PhD
PO 3626 Soldotna, Alaska 99669 907-262-3908 hrhays@alaska.net

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: House Bill 244

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Jurgens [<mailto:e-iurgens@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 9:47 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: House Bill 244

I support House Bill No. 244. This bill is vital to protecting the democratic process, the faith of voters in their government, and the right of the people to the state constitution's promise that "All government originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the people as a whole."

Sincerely,

Emily Jurgens
690 Avalon Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Nancy Manly

From: Rep. Bob Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: HB 244

From: Sue Christiansen [<mailto:suechristiansen@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 8:56 AM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: HB 244

Kate Veh

Dear Representative Bob Lynn,

Currently HB 244 is in your committee of State Affairs. This bill is what is vitally needed to reform elections. I support it whole heartedly and hope you will as well. It is an important bill to people throughout this state. We appreciate your service to all the people of Alaska. Thank you for your time and commitment in making sure this critical bill gets passed.

Sue Christiansen

Bill Text 27th Legislature

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill_text.asp?hsid=HB0244A&session=27

Nancy Manly

From: Patty Krueger
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 10:11 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW:

From: sarah thomas [<mailto:stotherah@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 9:23 AM
To: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject:

I wanted to commend you and show my strong support for House Bill No. 244. Thank you for taking a stand for the people.

Sarah Thomas

27th Legislature(2011-2012)

Bill History/Action for 27th Legislature

BILL: HB 244

SHORT TITLE: CORPORATIONS NOT "PERSONS" IN ELECTIONS

BILL VERSION:

CURRENT STATUS: (H) STA
THEN JUD

STATUS DATE: 01/17/12

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) KAWASAKI, TUCK, GARDNER, GARA, Miller, Kerttula

TITLE: "An Act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls."

Bill Number: [Search Bills] [Next Bill]

[Full Text]

[Sponsor Statement]

[Display Committee Action with Bill History]

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/17/12	1335	(H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/6/12
01/17/12	1335	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/17/12	1335	(H) STA, JUD
01/17/12	1335	(H) REFERRED TO STATE AFFAIRS
01/18/12	1365	(H) COSPONSOR(S): KERTTULA

*Michelle
 HB244 VASQUEZ
 100% favor
 Soldotna
 1-23-12*

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match

CAMPAIGNS

CORPORATIONS

ELECTIONS

Bill Number: [Display Bill]

[Next Bill]

[Return to Basis Main Menu \(27th Legislature\)](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Hal Gage [mailto:halgage@alaska.net]

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 11:30 AM

To: Sen. Johnny Ellis

Subject: End Corporate Personhood

Towns, cities, and organizations across the country are demanding an end to corporate personhood and the system of election buying, among the other abuses it allows. Montana bans corporate election spending despite the 'Citizens United' ruling. We need the U.S. Constitution amended to state what its original framers considered too obvious to include: human rights are only for humans. Examples of useful bills to support in the U.S. Congress are S.J.Res.33, H.J.Res.90, H.J.Res.88, and H.J.Res.78. This is our top priority, and we expect you to introduce or cosponsor the necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

Hal Gage
2526 Galewood St
Anchorage, AK 99508

Mindy ONeall

From: Sue Sprinkle <suesprinkle@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:37 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Corporate Personhood

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Scott,

I heartily support your introduction of HB244 and HJR33 to stymie "Corporate Personhood" in Alaska politics.

Since the decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, instead of creating a fair and level playing field for all, our government is becoming the agent of the powerful and privileged. Only popular outrage/resistance can prevent the richest economic interests from buying our democratic process.

We had a taste of that with the Murkowski versus Miller election when the when the Super PAC, Alaskans Standing Together, created by Alaska's Native regional corporations, threw a half million dollars into an ad campaign and suppressed a debate that would have included all 3 Senate candidate during AFN in Fairbanks, Alaska.

No other nation on earth has given in its constitution the right of corporate personhood. I think we should be the first state to say, "NO! We won't be bought"

"Just as they have adorned our athletic stadiums and multiple places of public assembly with their logos, corporations can officially put their brand on the government of the United States as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the fifty states." Bill Moyers

Sincerely,

Sue Sprinkle
Design Partner

5th Avenue Design & Graphics, Inc.
1222 Well Street #3, Fairbanks, AK 99701
PH: (907) 452-4166 | FX: (907) 452-4106

Mindy O'Neill

From: Dale Toy <argost4c@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 10:47 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: End Corporate Personhood

Towns, cities, states, and organizations across the country are demanding an end to corporate personhood and the system of election buying, among the other abuses it allows. Montana bans corporate election spending despite the 'Citizens United' ruling. We need the U.S. Constitution amended to state what its original framers considered too obvious to include: human rights are only for humans. Examples of useful bills to support in the U.S. Congress are H.J.Res100, S.J.Res.33, H.J.Res.90, H.J.Res.88, and H.J.Res.78. This is our top priority, and we expect you to introduce or cosponsor the necessary legislation. President Obama now supports this goal. It's time for action.

Sincerely,

Dale E. Toy

Dale Toy
P.O. Box 84836
Fairbanks, AK 99708



Skip to navigation

Fri. Mar. 2 2:42 pm | 27° Clear sky

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012

Corporations should not be treated as people

By Michele Vasquez

Kenai

3 comments »

Latest by spwright 4 weeks 23 hours ago

I am a staunch supporter of HB 244, which was introduced in the Alaska House by Rep. Scott Kawasaki. The bill reads: "An act providing that for-profit corporations and limited liability companies organized in this state are not persons for the purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums, or recalls. We do not believe that corporations are people nor should they have the ability to influence our elections."

In my opinion, the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court is the worst decision by the high court in recent history. We are living, breathing humans who can feel, eat, drink and walk into a voting booth and vote. A corporation is not a human being, cannot feel, cannot eat, drink or walk into a voting booth to vote. Money (aka "speech") does not equal the voice of a human being. The Supreme Court has given large, multinational corporations the legal right to spend unlimited amounts of money, anonymously, to buy American elections. The Supreme Court gave corporations all the rights of citizens without the responsibility and obligations of being a true human citizen. Legislators are no longer elected to office by citizens because corporations, through anonymous, large donations, choose who is elected. We were given the right to vote for and elect our public officials, but that has been stolen from the American citizen.

The corporation was created to protect the public interest. The corporation of today has one purpose; to make money, and in order to make money, the corporations need to elect certain officials who will pass or not pass certain pieces of legislation. Corporations were stopped in recent years from doing harm to our environment, to the health of our citizens; not to mention the illegal activities many have participated in. There are now laws in place to protect the environment and our health. Even so, powerful corporations wield money, which affords power, in the halls of Congress and state legislatures to influence pending legislation or change laws already in existence. Then, the Supreme Court decides to go a step further by granting corporations the right of speech (money), which will absolutely corrode and destroy the election process in this country. Elections are no longer about which candidate

is best; it is about which candidate can raise the most money to win an election. This is not a partisan issue; it is an American citizen issue. Millions of dollars are pouring into campaigns via multinational corporations, so it is likely foreign countries are having a "say" in who is elected in this country!

As a citizen of this state and the U.S., I stand behind HB 244! Corporations are not persons; money is not speech, and corporations should not be able to give unlimited, anonymous donations to political campaigns. The Supreme Court's decision on Citizens United must be overturned. I urge everyone to contact all members of the State House Affairs Committee (http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_com_info.asp?comm=HSTA=27) and tell them you support HB 244.

0

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3 comments »

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Mindy O'Neill

From: Michael Caulfield
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 9:00 AM
To: Mindy O'Neill
Cc: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB244 LTE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Author:
MERRIMAN, HARRY E
445 LONE PINE DR
FAIRBANKS AK 99709-6511
District: 07-225 Party: N Sex: M

Limit rights
by Harry E. MerrimanFairbanks Daily News Miner
Feb 12, 2012 | 1037 views | 23  | 3  |  | 
Feb. 7, 2012

To the editor:

Boy, did the Sunday, Feb. 5, News Miner editorial writer get their underwear all bunched up over the Alaska House Bill 244 that states corporations cannot be regarded by the courts as persons for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections, initiatives, referendums or recalls. Beginning with uncited quotations and quickly claiming the News-Miner might lose First Amendment rights, it then illogically concludes the result would be government censorship and elimination of free speech rights of corporations. Baloney.

The real issue here is whether corporations should have limited rights as compared to real people. The drafters of the U.S. Constitution certainly thought corporate rights should be quite limited and so did former justices. Chief Justice Marshall in 1819 wrote: "Being the mere creature of law, it possesses only those properties which the charter of its creation confers upon it, either expressly, or as incidental to its very existence."

American law gives corporations special legal status: limited liability, special rules for the accumulation of assets and the ability to live forever. These rules put corporations in a privileged position in producing profits and aggregating wealth.

For more than 100 years Congress had banned corporations from contributing to federal political campaigns, a ban the Supreme Court had repeatedly upheld. These limitations are more important today than ever before because of corporations' immense wealth, clout, off-shore ownership and influence with elected officials.

In 2010 the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling led by George W. Bush's appointees, overruled more than 100 years of legal and moral precedent by overturning the 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, commonly known as the McCain-Feingold Act, a bizarre ruling coming from supposedly conservative bloc judges, especially considering their often-proclaimed devotion to the text of the U.S. Constitution. Now the only way to correct this abomination and repair damage to our democracy is through passage by many states of legislation such as Alaska House Bill 244 or amending the U.S. Constitution for the 28th time, an option many Americans are considering.

Harry E Merriman

Limit corporations

by Marilyn Russell
02.26.12 - 12:01 am
Feb. 24, 2012

To the editor:

I support two important pieces of legislation filed in Juneau to keep large corporations out of local elections.

HJR 33 urges the U.S. Congress and the president to work to amend the Constitution to prohibit entities from making unlimited expenditures supporting or opposing candidates for public office. HB 244 provides that for-profit corporations in Alaska are not "people" for purposes of influencing the outcomes of public office elections etc.

The next campaign election is already steaming up, and consumers of mainstream media will be subjected to a main stream of money pouring into the laps of candidates and against candidates. This demeans my voice, and my neighbors' voice, and takes away the concept of one voice, one vote. It downplays the rights of people and the faith they have for a fair and democratic process. Corporations cannot breathe, they exist to make money and it is clear they do not belong in local elections to spend carte blanche, when, in comparison, I can hardly be heard due to the imbalance in monetary resources.

Please contact Rep. Gara and Rep. Kawasaki and let them know you support keeping corporations out of local elections.

Marilyn Russell

Fairbanks

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Mindy O'Neal

From: Michele Vasquez <michele.s.simmons@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 10:07 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: re: Thank you ahead of time on HB 244!!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

I am not in your district, but I wanted to let you know how thrilled I was to see that you have filed HB 244 ahead of the opening of the legislature. As you are aware, the SCOTUS decision on Citizen's United is probably the worst decision made in countless years! We already see the ramifications of it in the 2012 election cycle.

I don't know if other legislators in other states have filed similar bills, but somehow, I think you are not alone. We have seen cities like Portland and NYC approve resolutions declaring that corporations are not people. Several U.S. Senators and Representatives have introduced legislation to amend the Constitution to overturn CU, including our very own Senator Begich.

It was particularly exciting to read that the Attorney General of Montana, Steve Bullock, was able to get the Supreme Court in his state to uphold a 1912 decision that prohibits direct contributions by corporations into political elections. I don't know if Alaska has any old laws, but since we haven't been a state for as long as Montana, I somehow doubt it. However, you could make history with your legislation. I believe you will find the majority of Alaskans side with you on this issue regardless of party affiliation. This is NOT about party affiliation, in my opinion; it is about the fundamental fairness in our election process.

For years, I have watched money become the make or break in elections; this is NOT the way it should be! I think we should go back to federally funded elections...period. I believe the last one was Reagan/Carter. Money should NOT choose our legislators and president. Money should NOT be a part of our political process ever! Elections are decided today not by the voters, but by which candidate has the most money to spend and that money comes from corporations funneled in from wherever to Super Pacs. This must end!! I applaud your efforts and you have my support!

Sincerely,

Michele S. Vasquez

Mindy O'Neal

From: barbara@alaskabike.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 3:08 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: HB 244 support

Dear Representatives,

I just heard a bill had been introduced that I believe many Alaskans can get behind, the HB 244 to exclude corporations from the elective process. I am excited to hear the ball is starting to roll on this issue!

However, I'm slightly concerned with specific word identifying companies "...organized in this state..." that are not persons. Do you suppose that verbage will only disadvantage Alaskan companies and not at all dissuade Outside companies/PACs from pouring money into local elections? I would love to get 100% behind this if I knew we could keep Outside corporate money from influencing elections here, as well as local firms.

I look forward to your response. Thank you, and good work!

Barbara Rowland
Anchorage
223-2327

Mindy O'Neal

From: Terry Snyder <tisterryak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 7:32 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: HB 244

Bravo for your sponsorship of HB 244 "not persons in elections" !

Can you tell me the first committee date and time it will be heard on the House side?

Thanks for your help!

Terry Snyder

Mindy O'Neal

From: Lynn Wilbur <kalei.lw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 12:01 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: [web] HB 244

To: Representative Scott Kawasaki

From:
Lynn Wilbur
kalei.lw@gmail.com

Message:
Thank you for sponsoring this bill!

Sent from (ip address): 209.112.189.130 (209.112.189.130)
Date/Time: January 24, 2012 9:00 pm
Coming from (referer):
http://akdemocrats.org/rep_kawasaki/contact-me/
Using (user agent): Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:9.0.1)
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/9.0.1

Mindy ONeall

From: Michelle Putz <mupere@alaska.net>
nt: Monday, January 23, 2012 7:49 PM
o: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: [web] Support and thanks for HB 244

To: Representative Scott Kawasaki

From:
Michelle Putz
mupere@alaska.net

Message:

THANK YOU for sponsoring HB 244! As these elections get underway, I fully agree that corporations are not people and should not have the rights of people in any matters. I support you and will ask Peggy Wilson to do the same.

Sent from (ip address): 216.67.81.162
(216-67-81-162-rb1.sit.dsl.dynamic.acsalaska.net)

Date/Time: January 24, 2012 4:49 am

Coming from (referer):

http://akdemocrats.org/rep_kawasaki/contact-me/

Using (user agent): Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 8.0; Windows NT 5.2; Win64; x64; Trident/4.0; GTB7.1; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.0.4506.2152; .NET CLR 3.5.30729)

Mindy O'Neill

From: Rep. Les Gara
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: FW: HB 244 support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

She may be right about the organized in this state language. I told her she was off base on Citizens United on PACs. Sponsor substitute?

From: barbara@alaskabike.com [mailto:barbara@alaskabike.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 3:08 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Les Gara
Subject: HB 244 support

Dear Representatives,

I just heard a bill had been introduced that I believe many Alaskans can get behind, the HB 244 to exclude corporations from the elective process. I am excited to hear the ball is starting to roll on this issue!

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I look forward to your response. Thank you, and good work!

Barbara Rowland
Anchorage
223-2327

Cities, states pass resolutions against corporate personhood

Several cities and states are passing resolutions against corporate personhood. The resolutions are the result of Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* which gave corporations the same first amendment rights as individuals and thereby opening the floodgates for money in politics in the US. Cities and states with rules governing political contributions on the books and even some without are hoping that these resolutions will curb the impact of that decision or provide momentum to overturn it completely.

Los Angeles, Oakland, Albany and Boulder have all passed city council resolutions invalidating the concept of corporate personhood. New York City voted this afternoon to join them, with a resolution creating clear dividing lines between the rights of corporations and citizens in Manhattan. The New York decision is notable for both the size of Manhattan but also the size of its business community and the potential impact of such a resolution. Cities across the country are looking at similar resolutions in attempt to restore order in their localities as Super Political Action Committees (PACs) make unprecedented forays into local elections.

On Friday, Montana's Supreme Court restored a 100-year old provision banning corporate spending in local politics. According to the court, even though the Supreme Court ruling strikes federal spending limits, it does not specifically prohibit state spending laws. The court held that the state's Corrupt Practices Act, thus complies with the U.S. Supreme Court's January 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*.

Vermont introduced a measure in the state legislature last week that calls on Congress to create a constitutional amendment separating the rights of individuals from those of corporations. California is expected to be the next state to take up a state-level resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* decision.

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January 12, 2012

America Isn't a Corporation

By **PAUL KRUGMAN**

"And greed — you mark my words — will not only save Teldar Paper, but that other malfunctioning corporation called the U.S.A."

That's how the fictional Gordon Gekko finished his famous "Greed is good" speech in the 1987 film "Wall Street." In the movie, Gekko got his comeuppance. But in real life, Gekkoism triumphed, and policy based on the notion that greed is good is a major reason why income has grown so much more rapidly for the richest 1 percent than for the middle class.

Today, however, let's focus on the rest of that sentence, which compares America to a corporation. This, too, is an idea that has been widely accepted. And it's the main plank of Mitt Romney's case that he should be president: In effect, he is asserting that what we need to fix our ailing economy is someone who has been successful in business.

In so doing, he has, of course, invited close scrutiny of his business career. And it turns out that there is at least a whiff of Gordon Gekko in his time at Bain Capital, a private equity firm; he was a buyer and seller of businesses, often to the detriment of their employees, rather than someone who ran companies for the long haul. (Also, when will he release his tax returns?) Nor has he helped his credibility by making untenable claims about his role as a "job creator."

But there's a deeper problem in the whole notion that what this nation needs is a successful businessman as president: America is not, in fact, a corporation. Making good economic policy isn't at all like maximizing corporate profits. And businessmen — even great businessmen — do not, in general, have any special insights into what it takes to achieve economic recovery.

Why isn't a national economy like a corporation? For one thing, there's no simple bottom line. For another, the economy is vastly more complex than even the largest private company.

Most relevant for our current situation, however, is the point that even giant corporations sell the great bulk of what they produce to other people, not to their own employees — whereas even small countries sell most of what they produce to themselves, and big countries like America are overwhelmingly their own main customers.

Yes, there's a global economy. But six out of seven American workers are employed in service industries, which are largely insulated from international competition, and even our manufacturers sell much of their production to the domestic market.

And the fact that we mostly sell to ourselves makes an enormous difference when you think about policy.

Consider what happens when a business engages in ruthless cost-cutting. From the point of view of the firm's owners (though not its workers), the more costs that are cut, the better. Any dollars taken off the cost side of the balance sheet are added to the bottom line.

But the story is very different when a government slashes spending in the face of a depressed economy. Look at Greece, Spain, and Ireland, all of which have adopted harsh austerity policies. In each case, unemployment soared, because cuts in government spending mainly hit domestic producers. And, in each case, the reduction in budget deficits was much less than expected, because tax receipts fell as output and employment collapsed.

Now, to be fair, being a career politician isn't necessarily a better preparation for managing economic policy than being a businessman. But Mr. Romney is the one claiming that his career makes him especially suited for the presidency. Did I mention that the last businessman to live in the White House was a guy named Herbert Hoover? (Unless you count former President George W. Bush.)

And there's also the question of whether Mr. Romney understands the difference between running a business and managing an economy.

Like many observers, I was somewhat startled by his latest defense of his record at Bain — namely, that he did the same thing the Obama administration did when it bailed out the auto industry, laying off workers in the process. One might think that Mr. Romney would rather not talk about a highly successful policy that just about everyone in the Republican Party, including him, denounced at the time.

But what really struck me was how Mr. Romney characterized President Obama's actions: "He did it to try to save the business." No, he didn't; he did it to save the industry, and thereby to save jobs that would otherwise have been lost, deepening America's slump. Does Mr. Romney understand the distinction?

America certainly needs better economic policies than it has right now — and while most of the blame for poor policies belongs to Republicans and their scorched-earth opposition to anything constructive, the president has made some important mistakes. But we're not going to get better policies if the man sitting in the Oval Office next year sees his job as being that of engineering a leveraged buyout of America Inc.