

# ***A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD IN OHIO***

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the State of Ohio hope to nurture and expand democracy in our nation and throughout the world;

**WHEREAS**, citizens of the State of Ohio once rigidly refined the nature of corporations, including their investments, board of directors, production, ownership, and political activities;

**WHEREAS**, corporate agents that violated the terms of their corporate charters had those charters revoked and the corporation dissolved;

**WHEREAS**, democracy means governance by the people, only natural persons should be able to participate in the democratic process;

**WHEREAS**, interference in the democratic process by corporations frequently usurps the rights of citizens to govern;

**WHEREAS**, corporations are artificial entities separate and apart from natural persons, Corporations are not naturally endowed with consciousness or the rights of natural persons;

**WHEREAS**, corporations are legal fictions created by the express permission of the people of the State of Ohio. Corporations are only permitted to do what is authorized under law;

**WHEREAS**, interpretation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by the Supreme Court in Santa Clara v. The Southern Pacific Railroad Co. to include corporations in the term persons has long wrought havoc with our democratic process by endowing corporations with constitutional privileges intended solely to protect the citizens of the United States or natural persons within its borders;

**WHEREAS**, this judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations interferes with the administration of laws within the State of Ohio and usurps basic human and constitutional rights exercised by the people of the State of Ohio;

**WHEREAS**, the judicial designation of corporations as persons grants corporations the power to sue municipal governments for adopting laws that violate the purported constitutional rights of corporations;

**WHEREAS**, the judicial designation of corporations as persons requires that municipal governments recognize corporations as legitimate participants in public hearings, zoning hearing board appeals, and other governmental matters before the State of Ohio;

**WHEREAS**, the judicial designation of corporations as persons gives corporations First Amendment rights and unfettered access to politics and elections. This enables corporations to control public debate and dictate public policy on important issues;

**WHEREAS**, buttressed by these constitutional rights, corporate wealth allows corporations to enjoy constitutional privileges to an extent beyond the reach of most citizens;

**WHEREAS**, interference by corporations in the democratic process usurps the rights of citizens to participate in a democratic process in the State of Ohio;

**WHEREAS**, the ability of citizens of the State of Ohio to establish laws to protect the health, safety, and welfare of State residents has been diminished by the exercise of constitutional privileges by corporations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** \_\_\_\_ (organization) \_\_\_\_ agrees with Supreme

Court Justice Hugo Black in his 1938 opinion in which he stated, "I do not believe the word 'person' in the 14th Amendment includes corporations";

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** \_\_\_\_\_(organization)\_\_\_\_\_ shall encourage public discussion on the role of corporations in public life and urge other organizations to foster similar public discussion;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** \_\_\_\_\_(organization)\_\_\_\_\_ supports the elimination of the Constitutional rights of corporate personhood in order to remedy the harms that corporations cause to the people of the State of Ohio by exercise of such alleged rights

**AND FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** \_\_\_\_\_(organization)\_\_\_\_\_ will actively work to abolish corporate personhood.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENT FORM**

Our organization, \_\_\_\_\_, endorses this resolution to abolish corporate personhood in the State of Ohio.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to:*

*The Ohio Committee on Corporations, Law, and Democracy  
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