

# Democracy Amendment

COALITION OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Senator,

The Democracy Amendment Coalition of Massachusetts (DACMA) is a coalition of organizations working to amend the United States Constitution in order to address the damage done to our democracy by U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Citizens United v. FEC*, *Buckley v. Valeo* and others. Together with hundreds of organizations and many thousands of individuals nationwide, we are working to stop the avalanche of special interest money burying our democracy. Just as important, we oppose the extension of constitutional rights to corporations, which, as you probably know, has resulted in the courts overturning hundreds of laws protecting our health, safety, environment, and democracy.

The DACMA coalition, and all of the organizations signing below, are writing to ask you to lead our nation to take an important step to restore and protect our democracy. We request that you file or sponsor amendment(s) to the U.S. Constitution in the Senate affirming that 1) rights protected under the constitution are the rights of natural persons and not of incorporated entities and that 2) money spent to influence elections may be regulated by Congress and the states, and is not protected free speech under the First Amendment. A constitutional amendment is the only way to address the impediments to self-government posed by money in politics and corporate constitutional rights.

Clearly, voters are outraged by the current state of affairs. Nationally, 16 states to date have called for a constitutional amendment – 2 by ballot question, 14 by legislative action (including Massachusetts).

Your constituents statewide overwhelmingly support a constitutional amendment. Already, [over half of Massachusetts communities](#) (182 to date) have called for an amendment, by passing either a local resolution (86 to date) or a ballot question (158 to date) or both. Support for a strong democracy amendment is clear. In November 2012, one million Massachusetts voters were asked by ballot question if they support a strong amendment with the provisions we are asking you to file. The question passed easily with 79% support.

We urge you to file or sponsor amendment(s) in the Senate that address both the issue of money in politics and corporate constitutional rights and play a leadership role in advocating for this critical change. Government of the people, by the people, and for the people depends on it.

Thank you for your time and attention. We will follow up with a phone call to schedule a meeting for early September. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Pam Wilmot  
Common Cause

Jane Winn  
BEAT

Peter Schurman  
Free Speech for People

Sara Brady  
MassVOTE

Carolyn Villers  
Massachusetts Senior Action  
Council

Janet Domentiz  
MASSPIRG

Lee Ketelsen  
Move to Amend

Brian Miller  
United for a Fair Economy

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Cynthia Franklin  
WILPF Cape Cod