

House Elections Finance & Policy Committee
Representative Mike Freiberg, Chair
Representative Emma Greenman, Vice Chair

Committee meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Testimony on behalf of [H.F. 1064](#), “A resolution memorializing Congress to overturn the United States Supreme Court decision Citizens United v. FEC...”

Committee Chair, Vice Chair and members, good morning. My name is Jeff Clark and I’m a supporter of Minnesota Move to Amend.

H.F. 1064 calls for a U.S. Constitutional amendment that would let Congress manage campaign financing *and* constrain litigation from favoring big money and corporate power.

As noted by [OpenSecrets](#), the 2022 race in CD2 between Angie Craig and Tyler Kistner saw \$18.8 million spent by independent groups. This was \$7 million more than was spent by the two campaigns combined—some of that money from sources not even eligible to vote for these candidates. 90% of this spending was categorized as *against* rather than *for* a candidate. The amendment proposed by H.F.1064 would enable Congress to control spending without judicial interference. Consider: If such an amendment were already ratified, legislation like Minnesota’s *Democracy for the People Act* would have no serious court challenge.

Mega-corporations benefit from personhood status in ways other than uncontrolled spending in elections. They *should* operate within existing laws that benefit the public good and check their goal of maximizing profits. But legally considered as “persons,” corporate legal defenses have used the First Amendment, the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, and the contracts and commerce clauses, to deflect accountability to such laws through litigation. The new amendment would establish a “level playing field” for all “artificial entities” to be governed by law and not by assumed “rights” as if they were human beings.

Finally, this “memorializing resolution” has a practical purpose. If passed and sent to Congress, it builds public pressure to motivate the drafting of an amendment. Twenty-two states have already applied this pressure. Minnesota should become the 23rd state.

I urge you to vote **for** H.F.1064.

Thank you.

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OpenSecrets: <https://www.opensecrets.org/races/summary?cycle=2022&id=MN02>

