



February 14, 2024

Chair Mike Freiberg
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Athena Hollins
471 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Freiberg and Representative Hollins,

We Choose Us (WCU) is a coalition of over 40 grassroots organizations, unions and advocacy groups committed to building multiracial democracy in Minnesota. We write to share our support for HF1064 (Hollins), a resolution calling on the United States Congress to overturn *Citizens United v. FEC* and eradicate the undue influence of corporate money in our elections.

Since the passing of this Supreme Court decision, we have seen campaign spending by corporations and other outside groups increase by as much as 900%¹. This has further weakened an already inequitable campaign finance system, hollowing out the safeguards states did have and giving the uber-wealthy enormous influence.

In Minnesota, justified concern about dark money in politics is prevalent across the state and across party lines. A 2022 LRP survey of 600 registered voters statewide found 89% of responders in favor of “[limiting] the amount of money a corporation can donate to a political campaign and spend on elections”². Last session, our legislature passed a bill preventing foreign entities from spending to influence the outcome of our elections, affirming Minnesota’s commitment to prevent the distortion of our representative democracy by non-citizen interests.

The excessive expenditure of money to push special interests is not free speech, and corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as citizens. Minnesota must affirm the rights and powers of its citizens by joining 22 other states and Washington D.C. in passing this legislation. We thank Representative Hollins for bringing this bill forward, and also thank Chair Freiberg for prioritizing it for a hearing in the 2024 session. We urge members of the House Elections Finance and Policy committee to vote in favor of this resolution.

Sincerely,
Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director

¹ Campaign Legal Center, [“How Does the Citizens United Decision Still Affect Us in 2024?”](#), Jan 2024.

² Lake Research Partners, Minnesota Survey. Jan 2023.