

March 11, 2026

Members of the Minnesota House Commerce Committee:

The US Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* in 2010 was devastating for the American political system. Instead of recognizing that Americans each get one vote and should have equal influence over who gets elected to public office regardless of what we look like or how much money we make, the court moved the country in the opposite direction, deciding that corporations have the same rights as people to spend in elections. Unsurprisingly, this unleashed a flood of money from huge corporations and their wealthy executives—drowning out the voices of regular people. Outside spending in federal elections has risen from \$574 million in 2008 to \$4.5 billion in 2024.

In addition, *Citizens United* has allowed corporate and wealthy donors to hide their influence by directing their contributions through one or more for-profit or non-profit corporations. When the funds are ultimately spent to support or oppose a candidate, the public has no idea who is paying for the ad. This makes the public more cynical about politics and erodes faith in our government and elected leaders.

*Citizens United* has only increased the power of mega-corporations and their billionaire owners to the detriment of the rest of us. It's no surprise that Congress has adopted huge tax breaks, loosened regulations, and privatized what should be public services. They're doing the bidding of the huge corporate interests that fund their campaigns.

This needs to end. Corporations of all kinds are artificial creations and should not have a say in our politics. Allowing corporate entities of any kind to spend on elections gives their wealthy executives two avenues for influencing elections – from their own pockets and from the corporate coffers, which is fundamentally unfair. Spending in elections should be limited to actual people and all large contributions should be disclosed. If you'd be embarrassed to support a particular candidate, then you shouldn't make the contribution.

As the owner of a corporation (or other artificial entity) that would be impacted, I fully support the state of Minnesota taking action to put an end to corporate spending in our elections and an end to corporations acting as pass-through entities to hide the source of donations. I would be happy to own a corporation that does not have the power to influence elections. These are roles that should be reserved for We, the People. Stopping corporate money in our elections will move us towards a government truly of the people, by the people, for the people that will support policies to help us all to thrive.

Signed by the following small business owners:

Juno Choi, Kate Winkel, Garth Blomberg, & Josh Voeltz	Arbeiter Brewing	Minneapolis
Sadie Diebolt	Asa's Bakery	Minneapolis

Greta Guck	Big Pine Books	Perham
Daniel Swenson-Klatt	Butter Bakery Cafe	Minneapolis
Kacey Hruby Wyttenhove	Cream & Amber	Hopkins
Lauren Callis	Curiosity Studio	Minneapolis
Jimmy Lonetti	D&J Glove Repair	Minneapolis
Kathryn Naden	Duck Duck, MPLS - LLC	Minneapolis
Rachel Bouchard	Flourish Pilates+Bodywork	Minneapolis
Ann Ulrich	FoodSmith Corp	West St Paul
Alina Hornfeldt	Mastel's Health Foods	Saint Paul
Abigail Adelsheim-Marshall	Mischief Toy Store	Saint Paul
Dylan Alverson	Modern Times	Minneapolis
Angela & Jamie Schwesnedl	Moon Palace Books	Minneapolis
Paige Pelini	Mother Earth Gardens	Minneapolis
Ashley Christopherson	Niche Books	Lakeville
Devin Abraham	Once Upon A Crime	Minneapolis
Elizabeth Harris	Real Home Improvements	Cottage Grove
Kirstin Wiegmann	Reverie Cafe + Bar	Minneapolis
Judith Morris-Meyer	Sisters' Coffee Inc. DBA Sisters' Sludge Coffee Cafe and Wine Bar	Minneapolis
Sarah Piepenburg	Vinaigrette	Minneapolis
Timothy Otte	Wild Rumpus Books	Minneapolis