

Chairman Garrett, Vice chairs Hicks and Hoyle, members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am Bob Ozretich from the Corvallis Area Move To Amend affiliate.

**"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights"**

There is no doubt that a child, as a person, is endowed with the inalienable rights of being a human. Who has endowed corporations with the same rights of personhood as a child? Was it "their Creator"? No, it was the Supreme Court in the late 1800s.

I find the equation of a corporation and my granddaughters, in any respect, to be deeply disturbing.

Justice Scalia prides himself on his pursuit of the original intent of the framers of our Constitution. What did they have in mind about corporations? Our founding fathers did not mention corporations in the Constitution, and why would they? They had lived their entire lives under the yoke of the King's chartered corporations and had seen what the East India Company had done to India. It seems inconceivable they would believe that corporations have the rights of people.

Unlike human beings, corporations do not come into existence with rights, they are granted only the privileges found within their charters. For example, in our nation's infancy, corporate charters were for a limited time; now they are unlimited! Initially, their profits were limited, now they are not. Amazingly, in the beginning of our nation, corporations were forbidden from owning other corporations and contributing to candidates...and now look where we are!

By the end of the 1800s, an expansion of privileges led to trust monopolies across many industries. Federal antitrust legislation was passed as a consequence.

Through this kind of legislation, corporations recognized that some of their privileges could be taken away by legislators, but if they had Constitutionally guaranteed rights to do what they wanted, no law could set them aside. BUT since they are not mentioned in the Constitution they would need to be found there, and they were, by activist Supreme Courts, in the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th Amendments.

Because the Supreme Court is the highest court in the land and they have declared corporations to be equivalent to natural persons, the only way to right this common sense error is to add a new amendment to the Constitution.

The language of such an amendment is within HJM 6 before you. Its passage would be an expression of a likely majority of Oregonians who see the need to overturn the two huge fallacies corrupting our democracy, namely, that statutory entities such as corporations, non-profits and unions are people and money is speech.

When they lose the rights of people, corporations' privileges will continue to be granted by state legislatures and Congress, as they see fit, as was intended by our founding fathers.