

Corporate "Constitutional Rights" Give Mega-Corporations Too Much Power

My name is Rachel Ozretich, I am a spokesperson for Corvallis Area Move to Amend and also here represent my views as a private citizen. Again, I wish to emphasize that the coalition, Oregonians for Restoring Constitutional Democracy, is not anti-corporation or anti-union. We are simply PRO-DEMOCRACY and believe our struggling democracy is in big trouble.

Of the constitutional rights awarded to corporations, perhaps most egregious of them all is the right to spend corporate treasury dollars on trips and lavish entertainment to lobby legislators, contribute huge amounts to legislators' PACs, and in the last 3 years, spend unlimited amounts for so-called "independent" electioneering. The need for huge amounts of campaign cash influences the legislative decisions of many of our representatives, and thus the interests of everyday citizens cannot compete. This likely contributes to the low levels of politicians' popularity, and high levels of voter apathy among Americans.

Using their court-awarded rights, many mega-corporations have grown "too big to fail" (or jail) and they are harming our communities, our nation, and our world because they have too much power, and are required by the Supreme Court to use it solely for making profit.

Because of their power over congress and other legislative bodies, mega-corporations have, for example:

- Caused the 2008 economic recession (risking another great depression), resulting in many lost family homes, life-long investments, and a great many lost jobs.
- They have received huge "bail-outs" without proper requirements for paying these back to our citizens, while continuing to reward their top management with huge bonuses.
- They have engaged in widespread out-sourcing of jobs, contributing to unemployment and decreased average wages of citizens in the midst of rising worker productivity.
- They have polluted public land, air, water, and food, in ways that have been found to endanger the world's climate and population, sicken children, contaminate mothers' milk and children's diets with toxins, and damage human sperm quality worldwide.
- They control most of our nation's "public" media, enabling them to downplay these harms from the knowledge base of most citizens.

The U.S. Supreme Court does not allow We the People to over-rule their decisions, except through constitutional amendments. We must amend the constitution once again to make right these major wrongs being done to our people and the world we, our children, and our grandchildren all live in. THANK YOU!