

Rules Committee Testimony
March 27, 2013

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee; I'm Rich Harisay Co-Founder of the Marion & Polk County affiliate of Move to amend and I live in Sublimity, Oregon.

You have before you a piece of legislation (HJM6) which because it's a joint memorial may seem to lack significance or importance or urgency. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is, in fact, a step in the processing of the most important legislation of the 21st century. Arguably, the most important (after the constitution) in the history of this nation.

We are faced with a de facto take over of the Peoples' government. Yes in our system of government sovereignty was given to the People. But we have become a Corprotrocracy ; a nation run by corporations for the benefit of corporations. They have this power because they are allowed to use their vast wealth to corrupt our political system. They can use their wealth for this purpose because they have declared themselves “persons” under the constitution.

Our nation was designed as a Republic, a representative democracy with sovereignty vested in The People. But our government is no longer representative of The People because one word in the 14th amendment to our U.S. Constitution “person” has been wrongly assumed to include corporations.

Because of the resulting corporate sovereignty we now have perpetual war, world environmental degradation, exploitation of the labor of most human beings, trade agreements (GATT, NAFTA, CAFTA, TPP, and all of the other Trade Agreements) which subvert our own Constitution and laws decimating our economy , and the ongoing theft of the world population's wealth on a scale that defies imagination. The full list is much longer but I believe I've hit the high (or should I say low) points.

Personhood was putatively established via the Supreme Court in the late 1800s in the cases of *San Mateo County v Southern Pacific Railroad* (1882), *Santa Clara County v Southern Pacific Railroad* (1886), and *Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad v. Beckwith* [1889].

[It seems as though we were “railroaded” into corporate personhood.]

In another of the subsequent bill of rights cases *Buckley v. Valeo* [1976] It was

established that money equals political speech thus allowing the rich to outvote the People. This is why the proposed amendment must address both that Corporations are not Persons and Money does not equal Speech.

We are facing the same threat to our Constitution that moved Lincoln to pledge ... that government of **the people**, by **the people**, for **the people**, shall not perish from the earth. You have the opportunity to help remove that threat by reestablishing the sovereignty of the People by voting this bill to the floor with your recommendation that it be passed.