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An Amendment is the Right Remedy

The authors of the constitution knew they wouldn't get everything right so they made it a living document. It remains an unfinished story. There have been twenty-seven prior amendments to the document to fix the oversights that became known with experience and changing times.

One more problem is now apparent. There are oversights that have let fictitious legal entities gain the constitutional rights of people. Corporations have a mandate to maximize shareholders wealth. They have acquired and use constitutional rights very effectively to this end.

Today corporations have the rights of people under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th amendments and the commerce and contracts clauses. For example, they can influence elections with free speech rights. Since money now equals speech they have a much louder voice than We the People.

The legal fictions that are corporations started as tools of the people to gather investors for worthwhile projects under a revocable state charter. Court findings and decisions over 200 years have gradually reversed this. People have become tools of the corporations. Our economic and political systems are out of balance. Our democracy is becoming a corporatocracy.

A constitutional amendment is required to restore democracy because the Supreme Court can reverse regulation or legislation. The amendment must eliminate constitutional rights for non-persons and designate that money is not free speech and can be regulated. This will restore corporations to their vintage state with defined privileges but no rights; to the useful servants they originally were.

Popular amendments are ratified quickly. Number 26, the 18 year old vote, took 3 months. Indications are that this amendment will be very popular too. Resolutions of support have passed by margins of 75% or more and none have failed.

There have been 27 amendments in 222 years; that's one every 8-1/3years. The last one was 1992 so we are way overdue for number 28.

Oregon can join the other leaders of this effort by passing HJM6.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Montgomery