

Hello, *Chair, Vice chair & Committee members*

My name is Kerry Fox, a resident of Salem and owner of a local small limited liability corporation. Thank you for listening to my remarks ~~and concerns~~ regarding our current socio-political, ~~economic~~ paradigm where legal entities are viewed as 'persons' having the same constitutional rights as flesh and blood people. Due to this paradigm, these entities have greater rights than humans do due to their twin legal advantage of money serving as 'speech'. Since the entities that exercise so much power in our everyday lives are large ^{ly} multi-national corporations, they have much more money than you and I, and therefore more speech and influence. I am here to speak to the local impacts of this situation where human-created legal entities have more access to our constitutional rights than we do, using a few examples.

Due to the protection of the 4th amendment, which protects 'people' from search without a warrant, big businesses can evade inspection for environmental or health violations without prior notice, as in Marshall v. Barlow, 1978. This has hindered the work of OSHA, negatively affecting worker safety and leading to negative environmental and public health impacts.

Access to the 14th amendment, ^{giving} which gives 'people' protection under the law to 'live' in and be part of our local communities, - protection against discrimination - hamstrings local communities with powerful, legal challenges when they refuse erection of a cell phone tower in their neighborhood or try to prohibit establishment of a chain store in favor of local businesses. ^{Multi-national corporations can}

^{also fight, as in Liggett v. Lee, 1933, differential taxes and size restrictions under the ~~same~~ 14th amendment - although they don't seem to mind the big tax breaks they routinely receive.}] At present

we in Oregon face a decision regarding our world-famous organic brassica seed industry in the mid-Willamette valley. The canola industry is looking to grow canola, a genetically modified crop, in the sensitive, protected zone. These plants will readily cross-pollinate with our organic brassicas if ^{the} ~~this~~ industry is allowed ^{there} here. This threatens our community's status as a world-renown organic seed source.

The canola industry can, in our current legal paradigm, use fourteenth amendment 'rights' to ensure a

place here against the better interests of our community. ^{Back} Human created entities are ^{also} able to use the first amendment right of free speech, the right NOT to speak, as in Nike v. Kasky, 2002, to avoid informing the public about the use of genetically modified organisms in their products, preventing people from making informed decisions about the food we ingest.

Without these constitutional rights, businesses would have to interact on an even playing field and pay attention to the wishes of local communities, not solely to the wishes of their share-holders, who only have an interest in their bottom line, not in our health, happiness and well-being. In summary, I insist that you consider how deep and far-reaching are the consequences of the entities we created having the same rights as do actual living, breathing human beings. We, YOU, have the ability to right the socio-economic-political landscape and put people above big business, corporations, & legally constructed entities. It makes sense to re-claim and re-establish people as the drivers of our democracy, not extremely wealthy, non-human, legal entities. Thank you for your consideration and for making the right decision by giving our political system back to "We, the People".