

# Paperjam

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June 25, 2013

To: Oregon State Senate Committee on Rules  
From: Deborah Field, Co-Owner, PaperJam Press and Executive Team Member,  
Main Street Alliance of Oregon  
Re: Support for HJM 6 A to Level the Playing Field For Small Businesses

*Chair Rosenbaum and Committee Members,*

My name is Deborah Field. I am co-owner of PaperJam Press, a print and design business in Northeast Portland and a member of the Executive Team of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon. I am a descendant of an Oregon Trail pioneer family and proud to be a native of this state that often is ahead of the rest of the nation in fair and just legislation. **I, as a small business owner, and we, as Main Street Alliance of Oregon, are here in support of House Joint Memorial 6 A.**

Competitive elections are vital to the health of our democracy. That's why business leaders, regardless of political affiliation, want to encourage accountability among candidates and legislators – and reduce the pay-to-play mentality that allows money in politics to control legislative decision-making.

These reforms are needed more than ever after the US Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The decision reversed 100 years of precedent that limited how corporations, unions, trade associations, political organizations, and other groups may spend money to influence elections.

As small businesses, we don't have much extra income to put towards campaign contributions. That said, the policies and practices in place now place even more pressure on the business community to consider campaign contributions as the cost of doing business to be able to continue to compete in the marketplace. This idea of money equaling speech is just plain ridiculous. All it does is allows corporations, and the wealthiest among us to have more say than the rest of us – that's just not fair, and creates an unbalanced democracy.

We feel that there should be limits placed on campaign contributions and spending. This would ensure an even playing field for all, making sure that the small business voice, and the voices of everyday citizens are heard just as loud as the biggest corporations'.

HJM 6, calling on Congress to end corporate personhood and declare money is not equal to speech, is the right next step to take as a state. It will allow Oregon to continue to be a leader in making our country a better place to live and will benefit future generations to come.

**We urge you to move HJM 6 A to the floor with a do-pass recommendation, to level the playing field for all of Oregon's small businesses and the great communities that support us all.**

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.