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Copy of Testimony given at the House Rules Company Pro HJM 4
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Thank You Chairman Hoyle and House Committee members.

I am Sandra Oliver-Poore, from Salem Oregon and a retired Marketing Engineer with Hewlett Packard. I have been with Marion Polk Move To Amend (MPMTA) for four years and I worked on developing and passing HJM 6. We at MPMTA teach, give talks and table at events to build a knowledgeable electorate and movement that is both deep and wide.

I would like to address the notion that our language would be outlawing any rights for corporations and other artificial entities. In the years that would follow passage of this amendment, corporations will be granted their own more appropriate rights and privileges as that is job of the states and congress, to pass needed laws. The Bill of Rights is written for people. Businesses are required by law to make a profit above all. People have much more varied responsibilities, none of which is profit.

Now that Hobby Lobby passed in the Supreme Court, granting religious rights to certain corporations, we can expect more and more rights formerly reserved for people for 200 years, to be usurped by corporations. How about the right to bear arms – or form a militia – or VOTE! There are rights appropriate to artificial entities but they are not people and so they should have their own laws appropriate to artificial entities.

We are very like the Wolf-Pac; in fact the petitions on our separate web pages are almost identical, To me “Free and Fair” is too loose and open to misinterpretation! Just in the past year over 30 states have introduced or passed laws that they might call “Free and fair voting laws” but they restrict early voting, reduce polling places, voting hours and require more ID to register. I know they would not label those laws as “Unfree and Unfair”.

HJM 4 is much more specific and speaks directly to the actual problems we face as a democracy. Too much money – Dark Money - Foreign Money - and this corporate personhood. This directness is very necessary as years may pass before enough states sign on.

I would be happy to see the best parts of the two memorials combined. But the “therefores” must have very similar language to “corporations are not people and money is not free political speech”, because money is property, plain and simple. I also like the HJM 2 “Whereas” about delegate selection and exclusions. Corporate power and overreach is dragging us backwards to oligarchy, corpocracy (our new word), and from there maybe next is monarchy or dictatorship. The best historical democracies failed this way, we need to study history and learn from it as our founding fathers did. We are not re-writing the Constitution, we are preserving it! Our current problems have been created by endless armies of corporate lawyers continually driving wedges into non-specific language.

We don't have to repeat histories failures, with hard work and dedication to solid principles by real people, we can create our destiny. That is the very definition of American Exceptionalism. This room is filled with it! Please pass HJM 4 with the change noted.

Thank you.