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February 5, 2016

House Rules Committee
900 Court Street
Salem OR 97301

Chair Williamson and Committee Members:

In the November 6, 2012 general election, Corvallis voters, by a vote of 16,358 to 5,302, passed a non-binding advisory question that expressed Corvallis voters' belief that the United States Constitution should be amended to limit constitutional rights to natural persons only and to specify that campaign contributions and money spent in election campaigns are not considered speech protected by the First Amendment.

The advisory question's explanatory statement read:

*EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR BENTON COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET
ADVISORY QUESTION
Ballot Measure 02-81*

This advisory question asks the voters of the City of Corvallis whether the Mayor and City Council should convey the following message to the elected federal, state, and county representatives of the citizens of Corvallis, regarding a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution:

"The citizens of Corvallis, recognizing that corporations are not natural persons, and money is not speech, support a Constitutional amendment that includes the following provisions.

- 1 a. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.*
- 1 b. Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability companies, unions, and other entities established by law shall not have inalienable rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by laws enacted by the people and their representatives.*
- 1 c. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined by laws enacted by the people and their representatives, and shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.*

- 2 a. *Government at all levels shall:*
- i. *regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, for the purpose of influencing, in any way, the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.*
 - ii. *require that all permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed within a reasonable time limit to be prescribed by law.*
- 2 b. *The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections and public policy to be speech under the First Amendment.*
- 2 c. *Nothing contained in this amendment shall be construed to abridge the freedom of the press."*

Pursuant to Corvallis Municipal Code Chapter 1.1 0, this measure is an advisory question. If approved by a majority of the voters, this measure does not have the force of law.

Based on the strongly expressed view by a 75%-25% margin in the 2012 advisory question, the City Council and I strongly support House Joint Memorial 201. We urge you to pass it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Biff Traber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Biff Traber, Mayor