

1                   **A Resolution to Support Signature Gathering on I-1329**  
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3   **WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court, in Citizens United v. Federal Elections  
4 Commission (2010) and other recent decisions, enunciated the novel and unprecedented  
5 principles that corporations are entitled to political rights and privileges tantamount to  
6 those of individual human beings, and that their use of money is a form of protected  
7 free speech;

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9   **WHEREAS** those decisions, and Citizens United in particular, invalidated campaign  
10 spending reform laws enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress and thereby  
11 unleashed an unprecedented torrent of special interest money into our political process;

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13   **WHEREAS** poll after poll has established that the American public supports  
14 overturning those misguided rulings, the continuation of which poses an increasing  
15 threat to a democratic republic of, by and for the people;

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17   **WHEREAS** the corporations plank of the 2012 Washington State Democratic Party  
18 Platform begins with this statement:

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20                   *We believe that corporations, as artificial entities, are not entitled to the Constitutional*  
21                   *rights of people. It's time to restore responsibility and to limit the power of money to*  
22                   *influence politics.*

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24   Additionally, in the "We call for" enumerations, it states:

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26                   *A constitutional amendment to establish that corporations shall not be considered as*  
27                   *"persons" for purposes of political activity and to reverse the pernicious ruling that*  
28                   *money equals speech..*

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30   It further states:

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32                   *We oppose.... The Supreme Court precedent that corporations are people;*  
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34   **WHEREAS** the former Republican State Chair serves as a board member of Citizens  
35 United and the Republican majority in the Washington State Senate has thwarted any  
36 effort to act on a resolution to Congress calling for a constitutional amendment; and  
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38 **WHEREAS** WAmend (Washington Coalition for a Constitutional Amendment) filed an  
39 initiative which the Washington Attorney General and Secretary of State approved for  
40 circulation for signatures as Initiative 1329, the summary of which reads

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42 *This measure would state that recent rulings by the United States Supreme Court*  
43 *that address limits on government power to regulate political contributions*  
44 *necessitate amendment of the federal Constitution. The measure would urge*  
45 *Washington's Congressional delegation to propose amendments to clarify that*  
46 *constitutional rights including rights to free speech, apply only to natural persons*  
47 *and not to corporations, and to authorize federal and state governments to limit,*  
48 *and require disclosure of political contributions and expenditures;*

49  
50 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** we urge Washington's Congressional delegation to  
51 propose amendments to clarify that federal constitutional rights, including rights to free  
52 speech, apply only to natural persons and not to corporations, and to authorize federal  
53 and state governments to limit, and require disclosure of, political contributions and  
54 expenditures; and

55  
56 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** we support the passage of Initiative 1329  
57 as the most expedient method of achieving this goal.

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60 Submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> LD Democrats and the 45<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats to the 2014 Washington  
61 State Democratic Convention. (Date Submitted 3/9/2014)

62  
63 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats, the Pierce County Democrats, and the  
64 Yakima County Democrats to the 2014 Washington State Democratic Convention. (Date  
65 Submitted 4/12/2014)

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67 The Subcommittee on Internal Party Business amended this resolution at their May 4<sup>th</sup>  
68 meeting.

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70 The Subcommittee on Internal Party Business recommended that this resolution be  
71 passed as amended at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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73 The Platform Committee affirmed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Internal  
74 Party Business at their May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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76 The 2014 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 21,  
77 2014.