

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 48

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2017

Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. O'Rourke, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. JONES) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
 3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
 4 *lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-*
 5 *stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all*
 6 *intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when*

1 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
2 States:

3 “ARTICLE —

4 “SECTION 1. The rights protected by the Constitution
5 of the United States are the rights of natural persons only.
6 Artificial entities, such as corporations, limited liability
7 companies, and other entities, established by the laws of
8 any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall
9 have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to
10 regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local
11 law. The privileges of artificial entities shall be determined
12 by the People, through Federal, State, or local law, and
13 shall not be construed to be inherent or inalienable.

14 “SECTION 2. Federal, State and local government
15 shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expendi-
16 tures, including a candidate’s own contributions and ex-
17 penditures, to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their
18 economic status, have access to the political process, and
19 that no person gains, as a result of that person’s money,
20 substantially more access or ability to influence in any way
21 the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot
22 measure. Federal, State, and local governments shall re-
23 quire that any permissible contributions and expenditures
24 be publicly disclosed. The judiciary shall not construe the

- 1 spending of money to influence elections to be speech
- 2 under the First Amendment.”.

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