

TO END CORPORATE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- WHEREAS: the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission rolled back legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing unlimited corporate spending to threaten the voice of "We the People" and the very foundation of our democracy; and
- WHEREAS: corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have we decreed that Corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of "We The People"; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1938 opinion stated, "I do not believe the word 'person' in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations; and
- WHEREAS: money affects the quality and quantity of speech, and is NOT, in itself, speech, and allowing corporations with great wealth to use it as speech effectively drowns out the protected free speech of the People in our diverse society; and
- WHEREAS: the Citizens decision supersedes state and local efforts to regulate corporate activity in their elections; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED: that by the adoption of this resolution, the ILWU shall include in its' Federal and State legislative programs support for a Constitutional Amendment and other legislative actions ensuring that only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not speech, and therefore regulating the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; and BE IT FINALLY
- RESOLVED: that the ILWU endorses and supports this resolution by educating our members, promoting and supporting such legislative activities in our Locals, District Councils and at the International Level