

RESOLUTION 2020 - 46

Re: In Opposition of Corporate Personhood Rights

WHEREAS, government of, by and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightfully are provided only privileges by the states; and

WHEREAS, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term “persons” has long denied We the People’s exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for only We the People; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*, the untenable decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established a doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2010, in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedents by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Presque Isle adopted the above statements on April 23, 2020 in their Resolution 2020-4 and now requests that the Vilas County Board support this effort and adopt same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 27th day of October, 2020 that “We the People” of Vilas County, Wisconsin, seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings as citizens of the United States are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and**
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vilas County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and to all state and federal elected officials representing Vilas County.

SUBMITTED BY: Vilas County Supervisor
s/ Chuck Hayes

I, David R. Alleman, Clerk of Vilas County, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution which was adopted by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors on the 27th day of October, 2020.



David R. Alleman
Vilas County Clerk