



North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections

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Citizen Groups Seek to Curb Corporate Power Questions Why Leadership Blocks Grassroots Legislation

RALEIGH—Citizen activists from across North Carolina have joined a national movement to reinvigorate democracy by supporting a House and Senate Joint Resolution that calls upon Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to restore democracy and overturn the Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. FEC*.

“The North Carolina General Assembly has been given the opportunity to take a stand against the rising onslaught of big money in politics, says Melissa Price Kromm, Director of North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections. “However, Senate Joint Resolution 937 has been bottled up and withheld from committee assignment. We are calling upon state officials to address the growing chorus of North Carolinians who are concerned about wealthy special interest influence and urge them to grant a fair hearing on the resolution.”

The Citizens United decision allowed corporations to spend unlimited sums from their treasuries to influence elections and opened the floodgates to corporate cash. In the 2010 election cycle, the first since the Supreme Court decision, outside groups spent nearly \$300 million nationwide.

“Corporations and trade unions should not be able to buy control of our democracy. Elected leaders should work together to take unlimited corporate money out of politics, require immediate disclosure of all contributions, and create new streams of clean, public money to fund campaigns so that our government represents voters, not corporate donors and special interests,” says Price Kromm.

The press conference is part of Resolutions Week, a national initiative showcasing efforts around the country to pass state and local resolutions calling for the Citizens United decision to be overturned. In North Carolina, local groups are planning actions across the state and are advancing local resolutions similar to H1201 and S937 to build support for its passage.
