SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1311 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 53

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kenneth J. Donnelly

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying proposal for constitutional amendment:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to corporate rights and political spending.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Kenneth J. Donnelly	*Fourth Middlesex*	
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*	
Benjamin B. Downing	*Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden*	
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	
Timothy R. Madden	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*	
Barbara A. L'Italien	*Second Essex and Middlesex*	
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*	
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*	
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*	
Joan B. Lovely	*Second Essex*	*3/4/2015*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 53

By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, Senate, No. 53) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Chris Walsh, Benjamin B. Downing, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to corporate rights and political spending. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to corporate rights and political spending.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

ARTICLE CXXI

Section 1. Corporations are not people and may be regulated. The rights afforded to the human inhabitants of the Commonwealth, under this Constitution, are not applicable to corporations, limited liability companies, any corporate entity or any artificial person. Any references to persons, citizens, inhabitants, subjects, men, women, people, individuals or like terms in this Constitution, are not to be construed in any way to be referring to a corporation, limited liability company, any corporate entity or any artificial person. Corporations, limited liability companies, any corporate entity or any artificial person, shall do business in this state

9 under the regulation of laws passed by the legislature which shall set the rights of such entities to
10 do business to promote the common good and strengthen the social compact of this
11 Commonwealth.

12 Section 2. Money is not free speech and may be regulated. To protect the political
13 process and the functioning of government to serve in the best interests of the citizens of the
14 Commonwealth, money shall not be considered free speech. The legislature shall have the power
15 to regulate the raising and spending of money and inkind equivalents for any primary or election
16 of a public official and for ballot measures. This shall include regulation of any advertising for or
17 against any candidate in a primary or election for public office and any ballot measure.

18 Section 3. Nothing contained in this Amendment shall be construed to abridge the
19 freedom of the press.