

SENATE No. 772

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 resolution:

Resolutions restoring free speech.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James B. Eldridge	
Daniel A. Wolf	
Stanley C. Rosenberg	Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester
Katherine M. Clark	Fifth Middlesex
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester
Timothy R. Madden	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
Jonathan Hecht	29th Middlesex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Cleon H. Turner	1st Barnstable
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire
Peter V. Kocot	1st Hampshire
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex
Benjamin B. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden
Charles A. Murphy	21st Middlesex

<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Linda Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	

SENATE No. 772

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by resolution, Senate, No. 772) of James B. Eldridge, Daniel A. Wolf, Stanley C. Rosenberg, Katherine M. Clark and other members of the General Court memorializing the Congress of the United States to restore free speech. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

Resolutions restoring free speech.

1 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free
2 speech rights of people, not corporations;

3 WHEREAS, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has
4 transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and
5 invalidate democratically-enacted reforms;

6 WHEREAS, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme
7 conclusion in the United States Supreme Court’s recent ruling in Citizens United v. FEC;

8 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC
9 overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury
10 funds in our elections;

11 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC will
12 now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign
13 expenditure totals in United States history;

14 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents
15 a serious and direct threat to our democracy;

16 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional
17 amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme
18 Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government;

19 Now be it resolved that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereby calls upon the
20 United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment
21 to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.