

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 29, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Three years have passed since the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. In that time, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in corporate political spending at all levels of our electoral process. We write today as Members of Congress participating in the House Democratic Caucus's Task Force on Election Reform. We have sponsored and cosponsored legislation to restore Congressional authority in regulating political spending and to address the growing influence of money in our democratic process.

During the past year, over 100 Members of the House and Senate have expressed public support for overturning the *Citizens United* decision, in addition to hundreds of elected representatives at the state and local level, and thousands of citizens from around the nation. Dozens of Members of Congress have joined together in supporting a "Declaration for Democracy." We have declared our support for amending the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people, undermined by *Citizens United* and related cases, to protect the integrity of our elections and limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process.

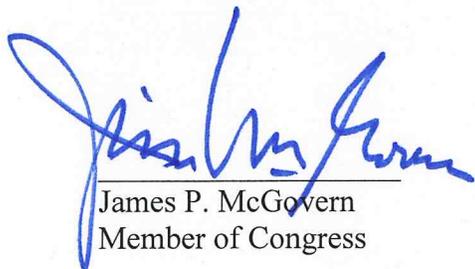
*Citizens United* effectively reversed decades of precedent recognizing the authority of the people to regulate outside spending in our elections. In 2012, corporations and a handful of millionaires and billionaires spent unprecedented sums of money on our elections, drowning out the voices of ordinary Americans seeking to participate in our political process. There is no question that further legislation is needed to protect the integrity of our democracy, and to restore democracy to the people.

We write on behalf of the American people who overwhelmingly oppose giving special interests an even greater voice in Washington. As you have argued repeatedly, corporations are not people and do not have the right to vote in our elections. There is no reason to give them a megaphone with which to influence our elections, or to believe that their growing influence in our political discourse is not contributing further to the dysfunction and intransigence that has plagued Congress in recent years.

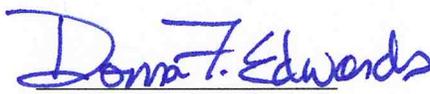
As you prepare to deliver the State of the Union address next month, we respectfully request that you once again emphasize the need for reform of our campaign finance system. We applaud you for taking a strong stand against the Supreme Court's misguided *Citizens United* decision in your 2010 address, and for supporting a constitutional amendment in 2012 as a solution to the influx of money in politics.

As you know, the process of amending our nation's founding document must be approached thoughtfully, and requires the sustained attention of the people and lawmakers. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to answer your call to action. Therefore, we ask that you highlight these issues, at a time when you will have the utmost attention of Congress and the American people, in order to spur conversations and reinvigorate much-needed debate on these issues that are critical to our democracy. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

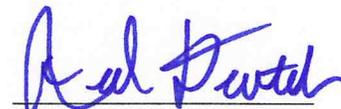
Sincerely,



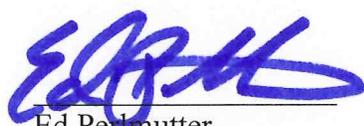
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress