

House Resolution 1377

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Opposing the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election*  
2 *Commission* concerning corporate campaign spending and urging Congress to propose an  
3 amendment to the United States Constitution; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2010, the United States Supreme Court, by a five-to-four  
5 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, overturned several important  
6 provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002, as well as earlier Supreme Court  
7 decisions, and swept away a century of tradition barring corporate spending in elections in  
8 the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's ruling holds that corporations are people  
10 with free speech rights under the United States Constitution and may engage in unlimited  
11 corporate spending in elections; and

12 WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* unleashed a torrent of  
13 corporate money into the political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals  
14 in United States history; and

15 WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* purports to invalidate state  
16 laws and even state constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

17 WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* presents a serious and direct  
18 threat to republican democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, the decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* grants power  
20 to corporate interests and threatens to overwhelm the voices of individual citizens in the  
21 political process; and

22 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people  
23 and states of the United States of America to use the constitutional amendment process to  
24 correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the  
25 heart of democracy and republican self-government; and

26 WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the  
27 nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout  
28 history, including seven of the ten decades of the 20th century, and through the amendment  
29 process have reversed seven erroneous Supreme Court decisions.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body oppose the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens*  
32 *United v. Federal Election Commission* and urge the United States Congress to propose and  
33 send to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution to restore  
34 republican democracy to the people of the United States.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia congressional  
37 delegation.