

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIRKTON.

4035L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, government of, by, and for the people has long been a fundamental
3 American value and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self govern, and
4 thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the
5 United States Constitution and Declaration of Independence; and

6 **WHEREAS**, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self
7 governance; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs
10 include clean air, clean water, and safe and secure food; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express
13 permission of We The People and our government; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations
16 allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus
17 denying We The People's exercise of our constitutional rights; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, corporations are not mentioned in the United States Constitution and We
20 The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We The People
21 decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the
22 United States; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, interpretation of the United States Constitution by appointed United States
25 Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has denied We The People's
26 exercise of self governance by endowing corporations with constitutional protections intended
27 for We The People; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps
30 basic human and constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers
31 corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate "corporate
32 rights" even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and
33 communities; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, corporations are not and have never been human beings, and therefore are
36 rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the
39 essential needs and rights of human beings; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, the recent United States Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. the*
42 *Federal Election Commission*, which rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the
43 electoral process, creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to
44 influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions, and sway votes, and forces elected
45 officials to divert their attention from We The People's business or even vote against the interest
46 of their human constituents in order to raise competitive campaign funds for their own re-
47 election; and

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49 **WHEREAS**, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media
50 as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their
51 primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities
52 within our democracy, and thus forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind the headlines
53 and election campaigning; and

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55 **WHEREAS**, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining
56 together to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate
57 personhood:

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59 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
60 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
61 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to propose an amendment
62 to the United States Constitution, in accordance with Article V of the Constitution, which would
63 put to a vote of We The People a constitutional amendment which clearly states that corporations
64 are not human beings and do not have the same rights as the citizens of the United States; and

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66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
67 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
68 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of
69 Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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