

BCDCCRES-03-140412-PASS-GOV
Resolution to Support the Passage of I-1329 and Regulate
Corporate Money in Politics

1 **WHEREAS** the “useful fiction” of corporate personhood has been used to claim human rights
2 for non-human organizations;

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4 **WHEREAS** the Supreme Court has asserted that the fictional corporate human can only “speak”
5 through money and equated regulation of monetary contributions with restrictions on free
6 speech, allowing unlimited and anonymous donations;

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8 **WHEREAS** this has resulted in the corruption of our political system, and the diminishment of
9 citizens’ rightful power and true democracy;

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11 **WHEREAS** limits on government power to regulate political contributions necessitates
12 amendment of the federal Constitution;

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14 **WHEREAS** in January of 2012 the Washington State Democrats passed resolution
15 WSDCCRES - 559 – 120128 supporting ratification of a constitutional amendment to establish
16 that a corporation shall not be considered a person eligible for rights accorded to human beings
17 under this Constitution, as amended, and the use of money to influence elections or the acts of
18 public officials shall not be considered a protected form of speech.

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20 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** we urge Washington’s Congressional delegation to propose
21 amendments to clarify that constitutional rights, including rights to free speech, apply only to
22 natural persons and not to corporations, and to authorize federal and state governments to limit,
23 and require disclosure of, political contributions and expenditures;

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** we support the passage of Initiative 1329 as the
26 most expedient method of achieving this goal.

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28 *Submitted by Malakay Betor to the 8th Legislative Caucus, March 26, 2014.*

29 *Adopted by the Benton County Democratic Convention April 12, 2014.*

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