

Dear Senator,

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United*, now bolstered by the recent *McCutcheon* decision, has unleashed a flood of spending on our elections that threatens the very foundation of our democracy.

Because we know that America will never deliver on its promise if our election system is dominated by big money interests, we are writing today to urge you to support S.J.Res. 19: a constitutional amendment to establish that Congress and the states have the power to regulate and limit election spending.

This amendment would overturn *Citizens United v. FEC*, as well as *McCutcheon v. FEC*, the decision issued earlier this year eliminating the cap on the total amount an individual can contribute to candidates, political parties and political committees. The amendment also would overturn the 1976 *Buckley v. Valeo* ruling, which established the doctrine colloquially known as “money equals speech.”

The Supreme Court held in *McCutcheon* that the only legitimate rationale for limiting campaign spending is to prevent quid pro quo corruption – essentially, the crime of bribery. But the American people understand quite well that corruption can take many forms and the problem with big money dominating our elections is far more profound than the narrowly defined crime of bribery. These activist judicial changes to the meaning of our Constitution tilt the entire government to favor big money donors. They deny regular people an equal say in determining the future of our country.

America faces great and serious challenges – putting people back to work, addressing deepening inequality, averting catastrophic climate change, fixing our schools, ensuring quality and affordable health care for all, and much more. Our country has the wealth and wherewithal, and the creativity and conscience, to meet these challenges. But we will fall short unless we repair our democracy.

We do not lightly call for amending our great Constitution. But we know that there can be no greater constitutional purpose than ensuring the functioning of our democracy. We urge you in the strongest terms to support S.J.Res.19, so that it quickly becomes the 28th amendment to our Constitution.

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)	Center for Food Safety (CFS)
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)	Center for Media and Democracy/Progressive Inc.
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)	Common Cause
Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, Inc	Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Beyond Toxics	Concerned Citizens Coalition of Long Branch
California Council of Churches	Cornucopia Network/NJ/TN Chapter
Caney Fork Headwaters Association	Cumberland Countians for Ecojustice

Democracy Matters
Demos
Empire State Consumer Project
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Food & Water Watch
Food Empowerment Project
Franciscan Action Network
Free Speech For People
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Green America
Greenpeace
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers
of America (UAW)
National Action Network
National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People (NAACP)
National Employment Law Project
Network for Environmental & Economic
Responsibility of United Church of Christ

NETWORK
New Jersey Work Environment Council
OurTime.org
People For The American Way
Pesticide Action Network
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Public Campaign
Public Citizen
Represent.Us
Sciencecorps
Sierra Club
The Stamp Stamped
The Story of Stuff Project
The United Food & Commercial Workers
International Union (UFCW)
United for a Fair Economy (UFE)
USAction
U.S. PIRG