

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 65

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIRKTON.

4234H.02I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

2       **WHEREAS**, a 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; 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 those 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 force citizens to toil to discern the truth behind the headlines and  
53 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-eighth 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 state legislatures a constitutional amendment which clearly states that  
64 corporations are not human beings and do not have the same rights as the citizens of the United  
65 States; and

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

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