WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS, Corporations are not people, but instead are entities created by the law of states and nations; and

WHEREAS, For the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has erroneously transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate the people’s laws; and

WHEREAS, This corporate misuse of the First Amendment and Constitution has reached an extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending corporate general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United unleashes a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United purports to invalidate state laws and even state Constitutional provisions separating corporate money from elections; and

WHEREAS, Citizens United presents a serious and direct threat to our republican democracy; and

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

WHEREAS, The people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the
nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our
history, including in seven of the ten decades of the 20th century, and including to reverse seven
erroneous Supreme Court decisions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the States for
ratification a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United
v. Federal Elections Commission and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the
people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rhode Island’s Congressional Delegation.