

TAMMY BALDWIN  
WISCONSIN

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4906

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

May 30, 2018

Ms. Teri Lehrke  
City Clerk  
City of La Crosse  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601



Dear Ms. Lehrke:

Thank you for contacting me about campaign finance reform and steps we can take to reverse the damage of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission*. I appreciate you sharing the City of La Crosse's resolution with me.

Throughout my congressional career, I have been a consistent advocate for campaign finance reform. One of the ways to restore public confidence in our political process and our democracy is by reforming the way we finance our political campaigns.

Like you, I am concerned about the effect corporate donations have on the political process. In its 5-to-4 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the Supreme Court invalidated two provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). The Court struck down the long-standing prohibition on corporations using their general treasury funds to make independent expenditures, as well as a prohibition on corporations using general treasury funds for "electioneering communications." The Court determined that these restrictions constitute a "ban on speech" in violation of the First Amendment.

I believe the Supreme Court's decision is a huge blow to our democracy. Seven years later, I am still terribly disappointed by the ruling and what it means to our electoral process. That is why I was proud to cosponsor of a resolution (S.J. Res.8), introduced on January 24, 2017 by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), that would amend our constitution to allow for the regulation of campaign finance. This amendment would also distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections.

S.J.Res.8 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which I am not a member. Please be assured of my support for strong campaign finance reform and for any amendment to our constitution that ensures that fair campaign finance regulations cannot be undermined by

moneyed interest. Without these protections, big corporations will continue to tip the scales in their favor and drown out the voices of everyday Americans.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office. It is important for me to hear from the people of Wisconsin on the issues, thoughts and concerns that matter most to you. If I can be of further assistance, please visit my website at <http://www.baldwin.senate.gov> for information on how to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

TB/ rk