



## IOWA CHAPTER

### MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

#### Constitutional amendment removing corporate personhood

For more than a century, corporations have been able to shift power from “we the people” to corporations. Through a series of United States Supreme Court cases, corporations are considered to be persons and have been given the same rights as natural persons. In order to return political and electoral power to natural citizens, an amendment to the United States Constitution is being proposed.

Because corporations are not real persons, they cannot be held accountable for their actions in the same way as real persons. Unlike real people, corporations can exist forever. Business entities exist for the sole purpose of making money.

The environment is negatively affected by corporate personhood:

- Money that has flowed into campaigns drowns public discussion on environmental issues and prevention of pollution
- Corporate power has resulted in attempts to abandon and weaken environmental rules and regulations
- Media consolidations mean there are fewer outlets to report on environmental issues



The Courts also have treated corporations the same as persons when interpreting laws under the Iowa Constitution. A simple amendment to the Iowa Constitution will protect Iowa’s people. The amendment language follows.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO IOWA CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII, CORPORATIONS

**Limitations on Rights and Powers of Corporations.** Sec. 12. Corporations are nothing more than business organizations created pursuant to Section 1 of this Article. Corporations have only those powers and rights specifically granted to them by the law creating them. Corporations are not persons or citizens under the law, and they have none of the rights of natural persons.