

Chair Carlson and Committee

Elections Committee

Dear Chair Carlson,

My name is Alex Maitheanas, and I am writing to the committee today to ask each and every member to support SF 569, the resolution memorializing Congress to overturn Citizen's United.

I have my Master's Degree in Human Rights from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and through my education, I heavily studied human rights and civil rights and how they intertwine with one another. In order to protect human rights, we need civil rights like voting and free speech to be protected.

However, through the Citizens United decision, rich people in this country have been granted a larger say in our elections than honest, every day, hard-working Minnesotans. Minnesotans know the value of hard work, including when it comes to campaigning for and electing candidates that align with their values. But when Super PACS and corporations are allowed to donate large sums and unlimited amounts of money, it is harder for honest, hard-working Minnesotans to run for office and support the candidates they want to support through donations and campaigning. My \$5 contribution can only go so far, especially when compared to the thousands of dollars that corporations can contribute. Why does a corporation, an entity that CANNOT vote, have a larger say in our elections than people do?

It is unjust, and needs to be remedied. Minnesotans deserve to know that our donations and our votes matter, and we will not know this for certain until this decision is overturned.

Once again, I urge committee members to support SF 569.

Thank you,

Alex Maitheanas

Moorhead, MN

