

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0008

Political expenditures.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Cooper, Anderson, Barlow, Boner, Brennan, Crago, Crum, Dockstader, Driskill, Gierau, Hutchings, Jones, Landen, Nethercott, Pappas, Schuler and Scott and Representative(s) Brown, L, Byron, Connolly, Davis, Erickson, Geringer, Jarvis, Larsen, L, McCann, Schmid, Styvar, Washut, Wasserburger, Wharff, Williams and Wylie

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to propose a  
2 constitutional amendment to authorize states and Congress to  
3 establish reasonable limits on political contributions made  
4 to influence elections.

5

6 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 1 of the Wyoming Constitution  
7 provides that "All power is inherent in the people, and all  
8 free governments are founded on their authority, and  
9 instituted for their peace, safety and happiness; for the  
10 advancement of these ends they have at all times an  
11 inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or

1 abolish the government in such manner as they think proper";  
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, the Wyoming Constitution recognizes that "equality  
5 in the enjoyment of natural and civil rights is only made  
6 sure through political equality"; and

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8 WHEREAS, the people of Wyoming have compelling sovereign  
9 interests in fostering robust political debate and self-  
10 government, protecting the free speech interests of all  
11 individuals, securing the liberty and political equality of  
12 Wyoming's citizens, guarding against corruption and advancing  
13 federalism and the interests of the several states; and

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15 WHEREAS, reasonable limits on how money is used to influence  
16 the outcomes of elections may be wise to secure the interests  
17 of all citizens of Wyoming to be represented and participate  
18 in elections and self-government, to protect the integrity of  
19 elections and government against out-of-state and foreign  
20 interests and undue influence of wealthy special interests,  
21 whether of corporations, unions or other artificial entities  
22 and to ensure that elected representatives are aligned with  
23 the interests of actual constituents; and

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2 WHEREAS, over the past five (5) decades, the United States  
3 Supreme Court has gradually come to equate unlimited election  
4 spending with "free speech," contrary to the original public  
5 meaning of the First Amendment to the United States  
6 Constitution. This unlimited spending is drowning out the  
7 free speech interests of actual constituents, narrowing  
8 debate, weakening federalism and self-governance in the  
9 states and increasing the risk of systemic corruption; and

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11 WHEREAS, the framers to the United States Constitution wisely  
12 granted the states the power to amend the Constitution when  
13 necessary to make it, and our Union, ever more perfect and to  
14 protect and preserve self-government and liberty; and

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16 WHEREAS, a Constitutional amendment would control over United  
17 States Supreme Court precedent interpreting the United States  
18 Constitution.

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20 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
21 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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1           **Section 1.** That the Legislature of the State of Wyoming  
2 and the people of Wyoming hereby call upon the Congress of  
3 the United States to propose and send to the states for  
4 ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution  
5 to provide that the states and Congress, within their  
6 respective jurisdictions, may establish reasonable limits on  
7 the spending of money to influence elections and that, in so  
8 doing, the states and Congress may distinguish between  
9 natural persons and artificial entities, including  
10 corporations, unions and artificial intelligence.

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12           **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
13 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
14 United States, to the President of the Senate, the majority  
15 leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
16 House of Representatives and the majority leader and minority  
17 leader of the House of Representatives of the United States  
18 Congress and to each member of the Wyoming Congressional  
19 Delegation.

20

(END)