

# Declaration to Abolish Corporate Personhood

WE BELIEVE that the rights of personhood — as manifested in the Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment, civil rights legislation, and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights — are among the hardest won and most valuable possessions belonging to all human beings.

WE BELIEVE that the word “person” in the Constitution means human beings.

WE BELIEVE that the word “person” in the Constitution was *not* meant to include corporations or other artificial entities. Corporations are not mentioned, described, or given any rights in the Constitution.

WE BELIEVE that the Supreme Court in 1886 had no moral or legal authority to give the legal rights of persons to corporations.

WE BELIEVE that corporate personhood has damaged democracy, the environment, society, and citizens in the United States and around the world, benefiting only giant corporations and the wealthy few.

WE HAVE SEEN corporations claim the First Amendment right to free speech in order to use large sums of money to influence our electoral and legislative processes and to advertise destructive products to our citizens.

WE HAVE SEEN corporations damage the environment when they use the Fourteenth Amendment to contest government regulations and the Fourth Amendment to avoid government inspections. We eat genetically modified food without our knowledge because the First Amendment protects corporations’ right not to speak.

WE HAVE SEEN small, neighborhood businesses crushed, despite our efforts to save them, because the “civil rights” of giant corporations prevent communities from “discriminating” in favor of local stores. Our attempts to prevent the invasion of cell phone towers and giant chain stores are also ruled to be illegal discrimination against corporate persons.

WE KNOW that a corporation is not a person. It is a legal abstraction without conscience or moral capacity.

WE KNOW that We the People, through our state governments, create corporations. It is, therefore, the right and responsibility of We the People to instruct corporations as to what they may do and how they may do it.

ON BEHALF OF THE PLANET AND ALL LIVING CREATURES ON IT, we pledge to abolish corporate personhood and thereby protect the rights of human beings everywhere.