**Resolution to Support Signature Gathering on Initiative 735**

**Whereas the very first plank of the most recent 36th District Democratic Party policy platform states:
1. We call for the 28th Amendment of the United States Constitution to end the treatment of corporations as if they were human beings.
2. We support revocation of the charters of corporations that repeatedly violate the law, with a public
 right to call for such action, and prohibition of public contracts with habitual corporate law-breakers, and**

**Whereas the plank in the 36th District Platform on Election Reform states:**

**2.   We support public financing of the entire electoral process, including campaigns, and oppose unlimited
and non-transparent expenditures in campaigns**, **and**

**Whereas the U.S. Supreme Court, in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (2010) and other recent decisions, enunciated the novel and unprecedented principles that corporations are entitled to political rights and privileges tantamount to those of individual human beings, and that their use of money is a form of protected free speech; and**

 **Whereas those decisions, and Citizens United in particular, invalidated campaign spending reform laws enacted by bipartisan majorities in Congress and thereby unleashed an unprecedented torrent of special interest “dark” money into our political process; and**

 **Whereas poll after poll has established that the American public supports overturning those misguided rulings, the continuation of which poses an increasing threat to a democratic republic of, by and for the people; and**

 **Whereas the former Republican State Chair serves as a board member of Citizens United and the Republican majority in the Washington State Senate has thwarted any effort to act on a resolution to Congress calling for a constitutional amendment, and**

**Whereas WAmend (Washington Coalition for a Constitutional Amendment) filed an initiative which the Washington Attorney General and Secretary of State approved for circulation for signatures as Initiative 735, the summary of which reads: “The measure would urge the Washington state congressional delegation to propose a federal constitutional amendments clarifying that constitutional rights belong only to individuals, not corporations; that spending money is not free speech under the First Amendment; that governments are fully empowered to regulate political contributions and expenditures to prevent undue influence; and that political contributions and expenditures must be promptly disclosed to the public. The measure would urge the legislature to ratify such an amendment.**

**Therefore, be it resolved that the 36th Legislative District Democrats support the gathering of signatures on Initiative 735 petitions and urge our fellow Democrats and other friends and associates to help collect signatures to place it on the 2015 fall ballot.**