



The following Special Order of Business was passed by delegates to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wisconsin Farmers Union Convention on January 24-26, 2014 in Wisconsin Rapids:

**Special Order of Business – 2014**  
**ENACTING MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

**WHEREAS** the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations;

**WHEREAS**, for the past three decades, a divided United States Supreme Court has transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-enacted reforms;

**WHEREAS**, this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* has unleashed a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy;

**WHEREAS**, in the years since the *Citizens United* decision, campaign spending by outside groups (known as Super PACs) has increased from less than \$5 Million to over \$80 Million per campaign cycle, but nonetheless third parties and alternate views have been drowned out, and there has been a general diminishment in the quality of public discourse;

**WHEREAS**, the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Farmers Union hereby calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.

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