

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB 1378.

I want to especially thank Delegates Terrasa, Ruth and Lehman for their sponsorship.

In 2010 the US Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC opened the flood gates to dark money groups operating with little if any transparency, drowning out the voices of the American people and ensuring that corporate interests are served over the common good.

HB1378 recognizes what we all see: unlimited corporate spending has distorted our elections, shaped policy outcomes behind closed doors, and allowed wealthy interests to dominate ballot campaigns. This bill places real limits on how corporations can influence elections and ballot questions, restoring some balance to a system that has tilted toward concentrated wealth for far too long. Democracy cannot function when the loudest voice belongs to whoever can write the biggest check.

The Citizens United decision took a battering ram to our democracy and there has been no better example of the damage done than the last twelve months.

HB1378 is a necessary step toward reclaiming political power for the public.

I respectfully and strongly urge a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.