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Statement of Purpose

Who we are

Wyoming Promise is a grass-roots organization of Wyoming citizens. All strategic decisions are made, and all actions are taken, only by Wyoming citizens. We are cross-partisan: members of any political party, or those unaffiliated with any political party, are welcome to join our movement.

Background

Article 1, Section 2 of the Wyoming Constitution states, “In their inherent right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, all members of the human race are equal.” Corporations are treated differently: Article 10, Section 2 states, “All powers and franchises of corporations are derived from the people and are granted by their agent, the government, for the public good and general welfare, and the right and duty of the state to control and regulate them for these purposes is hereby declared.” These statements are the Wyoming Promise: individual human rights are superior to corporate rights.

In 2010, however, by a 5-4 vote in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that corporations are people and money is speech, clearing the way for unlimited amounts of money to influence our elections.

Citizens United has led to the emergence of “Super-PACs,” to which corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals can anonymously donate huge sums of money. Because the identities of donors to Super-PACs and their donation amounts cannot be traced, these funds are known as “dark money.” When large sums of money are infused into campaigns, election results are skewed in favor of big money interests and ordinary people are silenced. Politicians then spend more time and energy courting big donors than serving their constituents.

Our Mission

Wyoming Promise's mission is to advocate for an amendment to the United States Constitution to overturn the 2010 United States Supreme Court decision *Citizens United v. FEC*, and thereby create space for national and state-level campaign finance reform. Through this reform, we are fighting to restore the voices of ordinary citizens. By doing so we wish to insure that our representatives at both the national and state governments work only for the citizens of Wyoming, and not for their wealthy donors.

Our Objective

Wyoming Promise's objective is to place a citizen's initiative on the 2020 ballot that would call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to declare that corporations are not people and money is not speech. To do this, we need to gather 39,000 valid signatures of registered Wyoming voters by October of 2018.

Our Principles

Because Wyoming Promise is cross-partisan, it will not endorse any political candidate for any office at any time.¹ It will, however, welcome endorsements by current and former public officials, and candidates for public office, who agree that money in politics has reached toxic levels and who wish to solve that problem by repealing *Citizens United* through an amendment to the United States Constitution. Wyoming Promise will list any current or former public official or candidate for office, who agrees with our mission on a Supporters Page on our website, but only with the specific permission of such official or candidate.

¹ Wyoming Promise recognizes that its volunteers and supporters, who come from a wide range of backgrounds and affiliations, may wish to engage in political activities unrelated to the mission of Wyoming Promise. Nothing in this Statement of Purpose should be interpreted to prevent any Wyoming Promise volunteer from engaging in any political activity that they choose to engage in, so long as they do not imply that Wyoming Promise endorses or supports those activities.