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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Takko, Nelson, Conway, Rolfes, Frockt, and Billig

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1            TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, The 1st President of the United States George Washington  
9 stated, "The basis of our political systems is the right of the  
10 people to make and to alter their Constitutions of Government"; and

11            WHEREAS, It was the stated intention of the framers of the  
12 Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the  
13 United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone";  
14 and

15            WHEREAS, That dependency has evolved from a dependency on the  
16 people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in  
17 elections, through campaigns or third-party groups; and

18            WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens*  
19 *United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) removed  
20 restrictions on amounts of independent political spending; and

21            WHEREAS, The removal of those restrictions has resulted in the  
22 unjust influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted  
23 the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our

1 political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of  
2 our state; and

3 WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution requires the  
4 United States Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments  
5 upon application of two-thirds of the legislatures of the several  
6 states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States  
7 Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of Washington sees the need for a convention  
9 to propose amendments in order to address concerns such as those  
10 raised by the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens*  
11 *United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) 130 S.Ct. 876 and  
12 related cases and events including those occurring long before or  
13 afterward or for a substantially similar purpose, and desires that  
14 said convention should be so limited; and

15 WHEREAS, The State of Washington desires that the delegates to  
16 said convention shall be comprised equally from individuals currently  
17 elected to state and local office, or be selected by election, in  
18 each Congressional district for the purpose of serving as delegates,  
19 though all individuals elected or appointed to federal office, now or  
20 in the past, be prohibited from serving as delegates to the  
21 Convention, and intends to retain the ability to restrict or expand  
22 the power of its delegates within the limits expressed above; and

23 WHEREAS, The legislature of the State of Washington intends that  
24 this joint resolution be a continuing application considered together  
25 with similar applications calling for a convention on this subject,  
26 such as those approved by Vermont legislators (2014 Vermont Joint  
27 Resolution Senate No. 27, 160 Congressional Record S4331, POM-284)  
28 and by California lawmakers (2014 California Assembly Joint  
29 Resolution No. 1, 160 Congressional Record S5507, POM-320), and  
30 introduced by Montana lawmakers (L.C. No. 0095), until such time as  
31 the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states have applied for  
32 such a convention and that convention has actually been called by  
33 Congress;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request that the  
35 people of the State of Washington speaking through its legislature,  
36 and pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, hereby  
37 petition the United States Congress to call a Convention for the  
38 purpose of proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the United  
39 States of America as soon as two-thirds of the several states have  
40 applied for a Convention; and

1       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
2 transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of  
3 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, the Governor of each state, and the presiding  
5 officer of each house of each state legislature in the United States,  
6 to the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as  
7 presiding officer of the United States Senate and addressed to him at  
8 the legislative office that he maintains inside the United States  
9 Capitol, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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