RESOLUTION NO. 2020-R-9

SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, government of, by and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations and rightly are provided ONLY privileges by the states; and

WHEREAS, interpretation of the US Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied We the People's exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech, and

WHEREAS, in 1976 in the ruling on *Buckley v. Valeo*, the untenable decision of the Supreme Courts changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2010 in *Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; now therefore

RESOLVED that "We the People" of the Town of Boulder Junction, Wisconsin seek to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

- 1. Only human beings as citizens of the United States are endowed with constitutional rights not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and
- 2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities and all local, state and federal elected officials representing the town.

• APPROVED by 86% of the Electors of the Town of Boulder Junction, Wisconsin at the April 7, 2020 Spring Election

Adopted this 23thday of June, 2020 By the Town Board of the Town of Boulder Junction

Roll Call Vote: 3 YES NO (2/3 required)

Dennis Reuss, Chairman

Laura Bertch, Supervisor

James Galloway, Supervisor

Attest:

Dan Driscoll, Clerk/Treasurer