

June 16, 2010

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*, which allows unlimited independent spending by corporations in support of or opposition to political candidates, has derailed many of the most important campaign finance reform reforms enacted over the past several decades. Many organizations committed to the preservation of fundamental principles of American democracy agreed with President Obama when he used the occasion of the State of the Union address to call on Congress to write legislation that would overturn the most egregious ramifications of the *Citizens United* decision.

We strongly believe that the *Citizens United* decision poses a threat to the integrity of the electoral process and we support legislation that provides for effective disclosure, while at the same time protecting free and independent speech and promoting active participation in elections by individuals and organizations.

However, we must respectfully express our profound opposition to the effort to create an exemption from the disclosure requirements for large, powerful organizations, which, given the amendment's language, in reality only applies to one entity, the National Rifle Association.

It is inappropriate and inequitable to create a two-tiered system of campaign finance laws and First Amendment protections, one for the most powerful and influential and another for everyone else. There is no legitimate justification for privileging the speech of one entity over another, or of reducing the burdens of compliance for the biggest organization yet retaining them for the smallest.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to work with the sponsors to remove the offending language and restore the integrity of the bill so we can continue to participate in efforts to craft legislation that achieves the goal we all share to undo the damage of *Citizens United* and restore the integrity of our democratic system. In its current form, however, we have no choice but to oppose the passage of the DISCLOSE Act.

Respectfully,

Alliance for Justice  
League of Conservation Voters  
Sierra Club  
Arizona Bridge to Independent Living  
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence  
Campaign for Community Change  
Ceasefire Oregon  
Center for Science and the Public Interest  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Consumer Action  
DC For Democracy  
Defending Dissent Foundation  
Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund  
Education Voters of America  
Friends of the Earth  
Global Justice Ministry  
GunFreeKids.Org  
Keystone Progress  
Legal Momentum  
Media Matters Action Network  
National Resources Defense Council  
National Consumers League  
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence  
New York Public Interest Research Group  
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence  
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Progress Florida  
Progress Michigan  
Progress Now Colorado  
Progressive Future  
Protest Easy Guns  
Public Advocates Inc.  
Scott County Housing Council  
Sierra Club  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
Traction Action Fund  
United Church of Christ  
USAction  
Violence Policy Center  
Virginia Center for Public Safety  
Wilco Justice Alliance  
Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort  
Women of Reform Judaism