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## **Spokane's Move to Amend, Occupy Spokane, Envision Spokane, and CELDF Join Together to Advance Elections Ordinance Banning Corporate Involvement in Elections and Government While Stripping Corporate "Rights"**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Spokane, Washington (July 26)** – Four organizations focused on limiting untoward corporate involvement in the community have joined together in Spokane, Washington to ballot-qualify a "Fair and Clean Elections and Government" ordinance. **That local law would ban all corporate contributions to candidates and initiatives, prohibit corporate communications with elected officials outside of public fora, and remove corporate "rights" from corporations and other business entities violating the law.**

Drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and Envision Spokane, the organizations Occupy Spokane and Spokane Move to Amend (SMAC) are currently qualifying the initiative for the November, 2013 ballot. **The project represents the first common initiative of the organizations in the country.**

Ted Hensold, one of the organizers of Spokane Move to Amend the Constitution (SMAC) explained that "the influence of corporations and other moneyed interests have so permeated elective offices and courts in this country that the only recourse that citizens have for change is to amend the United States Constitution. This will require grassroots efforts on many fronts that challenge the status quo at the state and city level. This ordinance is the beginning of that push, and we invite other Move to Amend chapters to join with us to move this initiative forward across the country."

A spokesperson for Occupy Spokane (name withheld at the request of Occupy Spokane) declared that "this is one of the first necessary steps to disobey long-recognized laws which subordinate our own communities to corporate power and 'rights.' This ordinance, and others like it, are the first steps towards occupying the law of our municipalities. It is then up to us in our individual communities to stitch ourselves together to force state and federal change aligned with what we're passing at the local level."

Kai Huschke, CELDF's Washington State organizer and campaign manager for Envision Spokane, stated that "for the first time in this country, we have joined together - within the City of Spokane - with these other organizations, to promote a common agenda – one of eliminating corporate ownership of our municipality, and of elevating community rights above corporate ones."

Signatures for the initiative's placement on the November, 2013 ballot are currently being gathered. The complete initiative is available at S-M-A-C.org.