

CHANGING THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN CITIZENS AND CORPORATIONS

CITIZEN TOOLS TO PREVENT THE NEXT ENRON

As Voters we must be vigilant in our defense against corporate money that is endlessly increasing its grasp on our politicians. We must ensure that attempts to buy political influence are exposed and any willingness to sell influence is challenged.

Tools we will promote to increase Voters' power:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST REFORM – THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

This tool will:

- Stop political kickbacks by preventing politicians from accepting
 - campaign contributions, gifts or employment from persons or entities
 - they award our tax dollars.

ELECTRONIC PETITION SIGNATURES IN THE INITIATIVE PROCESS

This tool will:

- Lower the cost of qualifying an initiative for the ballot so that the
 - process is accessible to citizen-sponsored groups and not
 - just moneyed special interests.
- Expand the amount of information available to voters at the point of signing a petition.
- Utilize what may be the last frontier where citizens can freely exercise their democratic right to circulate petitions without restrictions placed on signature gathering: the Internet.

As Workers we must fight to develop a safe climate in which workers can become watchdogs for the public. When workers gain knowledge of situations of corporate abuse, crime and unethical behavior, they must have the opportunity to expose fraud without fear of retaliation.

Tool we will promote to increase Workers' power:

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT

This tool will:

- Provide whistleblower protections such as a confidential hotline and stronger penalties for employer retaliation.
- Furnish incentives to blow the whistle, including provisions to award a portion of court settlements to the whistleblower in a finding of corporate misconduct.
- Impose penalties for withholding information, including holding managers criminally liable for not reporting corporate fraud.

As Consumers, we are often the victims of corporate abuses. Over the last century, corporations have been whittling away our constitutional rights as a condition of the market or purchasing goods. We experience corporate fraud in a way that makes us feel isolated as victims. We must, in response, join with other consumers in ways that will create a network of protection and security.

Tools we will promote to increase Consumers' power:

PRIVACY PROTECTION

This tool will:

- Limit corporate infringement on consumer privacy by creating “opt-in” laws
 - which will require express written consent from consumers before a
 - corporation can share their private information.

ACCESS TO THE COURTS

This tool will:

- Protect our right to trial under the 7th Amendment by opposing all corporate attempts to force consumers to sign away this right as a condition of service through such means as mandatory binding arbitration.

As Taxpayers, we have the power to regulate corporate behavior. That power has been limited by the courts and legislatures in recent years, but there are ways we can restrain the overwhelming power of corporations.

Tool we will promote to increase Taxpayers' power:

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

"CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE"

This tool will:

- Stop corporate rights from superceding those of citizens.
- Allow regulation of corporate involvement in politics. For example, it will
 - limit the amount of monetary contributions in ballot initiative campaigns by
 - determining that corporations are not human beings for purposes of the
 - 1st Amendment.

