

CORVALLIS DECLARATION OF COMMUNITY RIGHTS

By the authority of the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people and derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, Article I, Section 1 **Natural Rights Inherent in People**, which states, *“We declare that all [people] when they form a social compact are equal in right: that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness; and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper.”*

Therefore, as all power of governance is inherent in the people, we the people of Oregon, gathered in Corvallis, Oregon, this 12th day of September 2013 declare:

We the people recognize that our communities are under siege from the corporations that cause economic, cultural, environmental, and public harm;

We the people recognize our confinement in a system of laws that grants greater rights to corporations than to residents of our communities;

We the people recognize that this system grants corporate minorities the legal authority to override the community majority right to choose that which secures its health, safety, and welfare;

We the people recognize that the legal system has conferred unequal power on the basis of property ownership so that those holding the most property obtain and wield superior rights;

We the people recognize that this system of law hinders and obstructs our ability to adapt to economic, cultural, and environmental change;

We the people recognize that corporate control of legislation and governance denies our right to an authentically democratic local, state, and federal representation necessary to protect our communities from corporate harms;

We the people recognize that our health, safety, welfare, and survival of our local businesses, farms, ecosystems, and neighborhoods depend on restructuring the current system of governance, because it favors corporations over community-based, democratic decision-making;

We the people recognize that, because democracy means “governance of, by, and for the people” and “consent of the governed”, democracy does not exist in our communities or in the state of Oregon;

Therefore, we now exercise our inherent and inalienable right to create authentic democracy in our communities, municipalities, and counties within our State; and

We the People call on communities across the State of Oregon to:

- Enact local laws and adopt charter amendments that recognize community rights for residents of Oregon and preserve the inherent rights of natural ecosystems to exist and flourish;
- Include in those local laws and charter amendments direct challenges to the system of laws and legal doctrines that secure greater rights for corporations than for residents of our communities or natural ecosystems;
- Build a statewide network of local rights-asserting communities involved in changing our state constitution to incorporate the inherent self-governing authority of the people.
- Join together with other state community rights networks in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Washington, and all other states demanding changes to the federal Constitution that will elevate the rights of people, communities, and nature above the illegitimate “rights” of corporations and the governing authorities they control.

Original Signatories:

Dana Allen	Benton County	Dana Allen
Suzia Aufderheide	Jackson County	Suzia Aufderheide
Zach Baker	Benton County	Zach Baker
Lynn Bowers	Lane County	Lynn Bowers
Paul Cienfuegos	Multnomah County	Paul Cienfuegos
Patra Conley	Multnomah County	Patra Conley
Rio Davidson	Lincoln County	Rio Davidson
Gary Fowler	Jackson County	Gary Fowler
Joe Esker	Benton County	Joe Esker
Richie Gross	Lane County	Richie Gross
Linda Grove	Multnomah County	Linda Grove
Michelle Holman	Lane County	Michelle Holman
Ereshkigal Inanna	Multnomah County	Ereshkigal Inanna
Kenny Jones	Multnomah County	Kenny Jones
Eron King	Lane County	Eron King
Ann Kneeland	Lane County	Ann Kneeland
Maria Kraus	Lincoln County	Maria Kraus
Harry MacCormack	Benton County	Harry MacCormack
Liz Marlia-Stein	Yamhill County	Liz Marlia-Stein
Patriciafaye Marshall	Yamhill County	Patriciafaye Marshall
Lyn Martin	Benton County	Lyn Martin

Audrey Moore

Josephine County



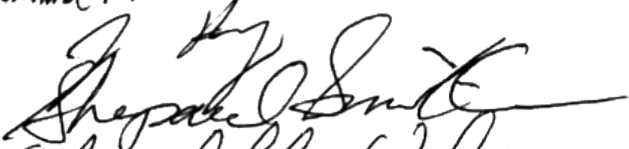
Richard Reid

Marion County



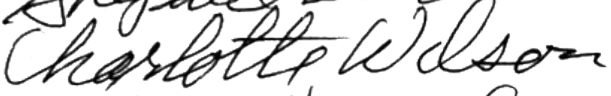
Jon Riegel

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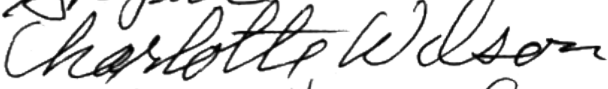
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