

WHEREAS, the 2010 Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* has opened the floodgates for unchecked corporate spending in electoral campaigns nationwideⁱ, and multinational agrichemical companies spend \$90 million lobbying Congress each yearⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relies almost entirely on research funded by the makers of agricultural pesticide products when reviewing the health and environmental impacts of these very productsⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, this industry-funded research is rarely made available to the public or to independent scientists for peer review^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, the extensive political control and lobbying capacity of a few agrichemical giants are becoming further consolidated through a series of vertical mergers^v; and

WHEREAS, profits for these multinational corporations continue to rise while in Minnesota the average farm income hit a 20-year low in 2016^{vi}, and farmers nationwide farmers experience falling incomes for their fourth consecutive year^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, the public officials who are meant to regulate the pesticide industry often have close personal and professional ties (vested interest) within the industry^{viii}; and

WHEREAS, the pesticide industry's products have generated pesticide-resistant "superweeds" that now plague nearly 60 million acres of farmland in the US^{ix}, and yet not a single industry executive has been held accountable for this huge financial and practical burden placed on farmers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local, county and state decisionmakers:

- Establish and enforce measures to prevent former elected officials from moving on to lobbying positions that create a clear conflict of interest;
- Establish limits on political contributions by corporations;
- Limit the dependence on industry-funded science by public agencies;
- Increase public funding for science that supports public and ecosystem health;
- Require that all research and research findings relating to pesticide products are made available to the public;
- Establish an environment that is conducive to the development of community seed banks as a local alternative to seeds sold by agrichemical companies;
- Enact progressive "sunshine laws" to increase transparency of government proceedings.

-
- ⁱ Dalgo, E., & Balcerzak, A. (2017, July 21). Seven years later: Blurred boundaries, more money. *Open Secrets Center for Responsible Politics*. <http://www.opensecrets.org/news/2017/01/citizens-united-7-years-later/>
- ⁱⁱ Agribusiness. (2018, January 8). *Open Secrets Center for Responsible Politics*. <https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/indus.php?ind=A>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Boone, M. D., Bishop, C. A., Boswell, L. A., Brodman, R. D., Burger, J., Davidson, C., ... & Rohr, J. R. (2014). Pesticide regulation amid the influence of industry. *BioScience*, 64(10), 917-922.
- ^{iv} Corporate Science and Spin. *Pesticide Action Network*. <http://www.panna.org/gmos-pesticides-profit/corporate-science-spin>
- ^v Boyd, J., & Weaver, M. (2017, June 18). Agriculture giants Bayer, Monsanto merging could ruin American farmers. *The Hill*.
- ^{vi} Meitrodt, J. (2016, March 31). Minnesota farm incomes take a hit. *Star Tribune*.
- ^{vii} Newman, J. (2017, February 7). U.S. Farm Income Seen Falling for Fourth Straight Year. *The Wall Street Journal*.
- ^{viii} Bonnette, E. (2013, February 11). The Revolving Door: FDA and the Monsanto Company. *The Independent Voter Network*.
- ^{ix} Gurian-Sherman, D., & Mellon, M. (2013). The Rise of Superweeds—and What to Do About It (Union of Concerned Scientists). *Policy brief*.