**Corporate Personhood**

**and the right to**

**Harm the**

**Environment**

From fracking to habitat loss to climate change to water and air pollution, there is no denying that corporations are behind the vast majority of environmental harm.

Since 1886 (Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company)courts have granted many of our rights as citizens to corporations-- rights which were intended only to apply to people. This poses a challenge not only to our democracy, as citizens now must compete with powerful corporations in the basic use of their rights, but also to our environment.

Here are four Constitutional Amendments met for We the People that corporations have used to expand their profits at the expense of the people and the environment.

**First Amendment--Freedom of Speech**

* Corporations can spend unlimited money in politics (through organizations called PACs) to influence politicians to allow them to harm the environment for profit.
* The fracking industry has spent $2.8 million in Ohio, $727 million nationally, on influencing politicians.
* The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, charged with regulating fracking, produced a memo describing plans to promote fracking in Ohio and target environmental organizations.

**Fourth Amendment—No unreasonable searches and seizures**

* Corporations can shut the door on government inspectors, buying them time to hide their violations of EPA regulations.
* Even with warrants, evidence can be thrown out of courts if the corporations are not given advanced warning.

**Fifth Amendment-- No deprivation of property without due process, just compensation**

* Corporations (Ex. Del Monte Dunes Corp.) successfully sue for loss of "future profits" when land they own is designated for parks or nature preserves, making it harder to create those preserves.

**Fourteenth Amendment-- Equal protection of the law**

* We cannot prevent known corporate abusers of our air, water, our environment, from operating in our communities.

**What can we do about it?**



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