

BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

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Montana common sense

The U.S. Supreme Court has done it again. First, they opened up the floodgates of corporate money into federal elections; now they have made clear that states may not slow the flow in their own state elections.

I agree with Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois who said, "This Supreme Court just doesn't get it."

How arrogant for the five-member majority on the court to overturn a 100-year-old Montana law that banned the state's big-money mining interests from wielding undue influence over state government. This law was in place for a reason, and it was kept in place for a century for good reasons, too. When challenged, the state vigorously defended it, and it was upheld in state court and on appeal.

But never mind all that. Justices Roberts, Alito, Thomas, Scalia and Kennedy know better than the people of Montana, their attorney general, their state judges and their elected officials.

I do not share the court majority's belief that the First Amendment protects unlimited corporate spending in elections. I think this decision, and the ones that preceded it, are a far bigger threat to democracy than Montana's common-sense law ever was.

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