



Federal law suit seeks to rob Maine citizens of their voice in election process

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(Portland, Me) ---Maine Citizens for Clean Elections calls the recent lawsuit backed by an out of state group “an attack on the will of the people.” The suit filed in U.S. District Court in Maine is an attempt to undermine Maine's ten year old Clean Elections law. This is the latest attempt in a national strategy to buy influence and bypass the will of the people in Maine and around the country. These plaintiffs and their legal allies have set their sights on overturning the entire body of campaign finance law – laws that seek to protect the American people from the corruption and undue influence of moneyed interests in elections.

Alison Smith, Co-chair for Maine Citizens for Clean Elections says: "Mainers have spoken, and Maine people overwhelmingly support Clean Elections. With 10 years under our belt here, we know this system works. Candidates and voters alike have embraced it cycle after cycle. It keeps big-money special interests at bay and keeps Maine citizens at the table when decisions are made about what is best for our state. Clean Elections requires campaigns to be open, fair and honest. This lawsuit is meant to undermine the will of Maine people."

The suit seeks to halt payment of matching funds to candidates who are using the Clean Election system this year. The suit also aims to lift the \$750 dollar contribution limit to gubernatorial candidates. MCCE Co-chair Ann Luther said, “Changing the rules in the middle of the game is not fair to candidates or to the tens of thousands of Maine people who helped Clean Election candidates qualify. Republicans, Democrats, Greens and independents in Maine are participating in Clean Elections this year, just as they have in every cycle since

the law took effect. All would be harmed by the disruption that this lawsuit seeks to create.”

Around the country, corporations have been fighting against the level playing field created by publicly funded campaigns. Maine was the first state in the nation to pass a Clean Elections law allowing the people to have a significantly greater voice in the democratic process. It was found to be constitutional in a federal court challenge ten years ago, and it has worked well ever since.

For more Information or to schedule interviews:

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