

BEN H. BAGDIKIAN
25 STONEWALL ROAD
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94705

FAX to Natasha Gordon (215-387-1560)
From Ben Bagdikian (FAX 510-848-2779)
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Natasha Gordon
Cultural Environment Movement
3508 Market Street, Suite B-030
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Natasha Gordon,

I am very much in favor of a serious legal examination of the judicial decision that granted First Amendment rights to corporations on grounds that a corporation is a "person" under the Constitution.

An attack on this was proposed to me over a year ago on a basis that I disagreed with: to rewrite the First Amendment in order to apply the Amendment solely to human beings and not corporate entities. I disagreed with that on grounds that I fear the unintended consequences of opening up the First Amendment to a revision. A revision, particularly at this time in our history of corporate-legal power, could lead to corporate revision of the Amendment to corporate advantage over individuals, or, alternatively, easily use its financial resources to defeat the complex political process of amending the U.S. Constitution.

I am, however, very much in favor of a serious examination looking to the possibility of attacking the 1886 court decision that granted corporations equal First Amendment rights with individual human beings. That seems to me worth pursuing.

It will be difficult, considering corporate money and legal power, and the conservative bent of the current high court. And it will not happen overnight. But it has precedent and with enough first-rate pro bono legal teams and growing public awareness of the dramatic growth of corporate power in our society, a legal challenge might succeed (the 1954 court overthrew Ferguson v. Plessy when they decided Brown v. Board of Education).

If there were a meeting in Philadelphia, I might be able to attend sometime in the first or third week of November.

So, yes, I am in favor and, if possible, I would meet on the matter.

Sincerely,



Ben H. Bagdikian