



May 8, 2023

Hon. Chris Van Hollen, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General
Government

Our Coalition of 29 groups fighting to strengthen democracy has turned its attention to the Supreme Court. We have been standing for political equality for every voter and for transparency in election finance while the sitting Court has been protecting billionaire “privacy” and eroding voting rights in myriad ways. Now the corruption of big, dark money has stained the Court unmistakably. It’s a point you have been raising since the day *Citizens United v. FEC* was decided.

We are delighted that you are trying to use the appropriations process to get the Chief Justice’s attention to the need for an enforceable code of ethics to bind the Justices and help restore public confidence. We hope you seek to tie a significant amount of funding to a requirement for the Court to adopt a code of ethics and also to require the filing of corrected and updated disclosure reports for all Justices and their family members. We understand that it is a challenge to get the House of Representatives to include any such provision in the budget, but we think it is an issue worth pursuing. We will do anything we can to raise the profile of this issue of a Supreme Court that is accountable to the public and not to dark money funders.

Sincerely,

Charlie Cooper, Convener
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Get Money Out – Maryland
Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
Baltimore Nonviolence Center
Be the Change Bmore
Caucus of African American Leaders of Anne Arundel
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Common Cause Maryland
Don’t Shop on Tuesdays
Do the Most Good
Indivisible Central Maryland
Indivisible Howard County
Indivisible Montgomery
Indivisible Towson
Indivisible Worcester
J Walkers Action Group
League of Women Voters of Baltimore City
Maryland Peace Action
Maryland Poor People’s Campaign
Maryland Peace Action
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
Matthew Henson Community Development Center
National Association of Social Workers - Maryland
Our Revolution Maryland
Progressive Maryland
Randallstown Branch NAACP
Represent Maryland
St. Ignatius Justice & Peace Committee
Southwest Baltimore County Democratic Club
WISE –Women Indivisible Strong Effective