

# END CITIZENS UNITED

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Tetsuo Ogawa, Stephen Ciccone, and Toyota PAC,

In January 2021, in the wake of an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Toyota released a misleading statement announcing it was “assessing our future PAC criteria.”

However, the assessment did not last long and did not appear to be serious, as less than a month later, on February 4, Toyota began contributing to members of Congress who actively perpetuated the Big Lie and helped foment the horrific January 6 insurrection. According to the FEC, Toyota has given at least \$60,000 to members of Congress who voted to overturn the 2020 election results.

Now, after Toyota has come under public scrutiny for being one of the few corporations to give widely to electoral college objectors, the corporation has announced that it will stop contributing to them “at this time.”

How long “at this time” will last is unclear, especially in light of the paltry amount of time the corporation “assessed” its political donations following the attack on the Capitol. What is clear is that although Toyota has said it would not donate to these members, it has been a leader among its fellow corporations in donations to them. That fact renders its latest pause “at this time” meaningless.

The only way to remedy this is to request a refund of all \$60,000 and to make clear this is a permanent, not temporary, pause. Any action short of this will expose the latest announcement as just another public relations stunt designed to provide cover and mitigate reputational damage until it is safe to donate again.

Without these steps, Toyota is actively deceiving the public about its financing of members of Congress who sought to overturn the results of a free and fair election. Toyota will have given tens of thousands of dollars to members it has said it will not donate to and has not committed to refraining from further giving to them. This is business as usual for corporations – cutting checks to lawmakers for access without regard to the consequences for the rest of America.

Toyota has a real opportunity to demonstrate that it understands the gravity of what happened on January 6 and that it chooses to put American democracy ahead of extra profits in its bottom line. On behalf of our 4 million members, we urge you to act in support of democracy.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Muller  
President  
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