

Mr. Brent J. Fields, Secretary  
A Coalition of Growth Companies  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549-1090

Dear Secretary Fields,

As a former school administrator and educator, I am deeply concerned with how my proxy votes are being handled by my mutual funds. I am most bothered by the reliance on proxy advisory firms to make voting recommendations on shareholder proposals on public companies' proxy ballots.

I have invested in some mutual funds which take these recommendations and automatically vote the shares I own in my retirement or investment account in accordance with the decrees of these proxy advisory firms. How simple and easy for me, I have money to invest and someone handles the rest.

However, I'm not the one in control of how my shares are voted. Instead it seems that liberal special interests' groups have coopted proxy advisory firms and mutual funds and are pushing their interests onto corporate America through proxy voting.

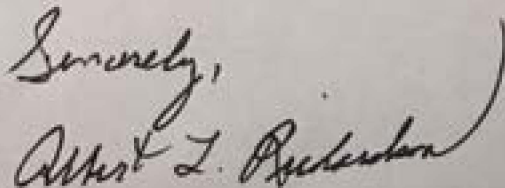
Special interests' groups have their own agenda and I am appalled that my money is going to support groups that are so contrary to my morals and beliefs.

This must stop. Peoples beliefs are their own, as are mine, and I certainly don't want anyone forcing their hidden agendas on me or anyone else. I am pleading with you that there be regulations in place so that we the people - who are the actual shareholders - don't get blindsided by who is actually behind some of these shareholder proposals. We cannot continue down this path and if I remain silent then I am part of the problem and not the solution.

I urge all the decision makers at the SEC to please be part of the solution and let these special interest groups know that their way of doing business will no longer be tolerated.

I do thank you most sincerely for your time and consideration of my request.

Al Richardson  
Naples, FL

Sincerely,  


2-11-19