

Dear Secretary Murphy,

I am writing to support of the Shareholder Communications Coalition's (SCC) cause to streamline and improve the proxy process in the United States.

My name is Mark Casper and I am the Associate General Counsel at Maxim Integrated Products, Inc (MXIM), a leading analog, liner, and mixed-signal semiconductor company. I am responsible for the preparation of Maxim's annual proxy statements; my firsthand experience with the current proxy process has significantly influenced my decision to support the SCC's objective to improve the process.

The existing system fails in a number of areas. All companies under the current system lack the ability to have direct access to a large portion of their shareholder base. The current distribution process is aimless and is not cost-effective. However, the most disconcerting failure is the inability of the current single-provider system to provide true transparency and accountability. Proxy process accuracy cannot be guaranteed due to the lack of auditability and the absence of a confirmation process. Competition will undoubtedly improve the quality of both the proxy process and the tabulation results.

The SCC's proposed system remedies the failures of the current system. The new system would be cost-effective, utilizing electronic communication to decrease costs. Transparency would significantly increase with a multi-service-provider model instead of the current single-provider. There would be more accurate disclosure of shareholder positions, which would allow companies to have greater access to their shareholder base. And most importantly, there would be competitive bidding, which would ultimately result in a cost-effective system of distribution and tabulation. Finally, companies, including Maxim, would have the assurance of full confirmation and auditability, both of which the current system lacks.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for the SCC's request for change.

Best Regards,

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Associate General Counsel/Secretary  
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