December 14, 2019

Secretary Vanessa Countryman Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street NE Washington, DC 20549-1090 JAN C 8 2020

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

File Number S7-22-19

Dear Secretary Countryman,

At 82 years young, after working my whole life in Ohio, I now rely entirely on my pension fund and Social Security. I appreciate the opportunity to share my view with the SEC.

In the recent Financial Transparency Score Report, Truth in Accounting ranked every state on fiscal transparency. Ohio placed 12th, earning a 76 (out of 100). Quite an accomplishment for the state with the 12th largest pension fund in the country.

As of 2018, the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System included 213,000 retirees like myself, out of 1,145,000 members. It is the largest pension fund in the state of Ohio. Last year, OPERS returned a loss of 38% and reported \$24 billion in unfunded liability.

For those of us who are already retired, OPERS is now trying to totally stop the cost of living adjustment in 2022 and 2023.

This, in some part, is due to the murky, oft misguided recommendations of Proxy Advisory firms. Using politics to drive pension investments has left a wreckage of underfunded, overstretched pension funds across the U.S in its wake. Taxpayers and retirees are basically abandoned financially as these irresponsible and unregulated decisions that prioritize current social whims over financial growth. Today, 1.9 million citizens covered by Ohio's public pensions are at stake and suffer when specific funding standards are not met. To say nothing of the OPERS beneficiaries who must accept financial injury with little or not input into the process.

I rely on my annual income of \$21,000 to live, and I want to be sure to have enough to continue keep up with my 7 children and 20 grandchildren in my golden years. I can't afford to have my life be used as a political football for political advocacy. I fully support your recent guidance, and newly proposed rule, on this matter and hope you take further action to curb the abuses of proxy advisors.

With Gratitude.

Lynda Bedfern Lynda Redfern