

December 20, 2019

Vanessa Countryman
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20549



Re: File Number S7-22-19

To Secretary Countryman:

As employees of the Ohio public school system, both my husband and I work hard to save for our future through our 401K investment fund accounts as well as the pensions we will receive through the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). We are not financial experts, so we trust that those charged with managing our 401Ks and pension funds are helping grow these investments for retirement.

That's why I was upset when I learned exactly how proxy advisory firms, which provide financial and investment advice to various funds, are misusing their influence to advance political and social objectives rather than making recommendations that will actually help grow investment and pension accounts. This behavior warrants further action from the SEC and I am pleased that the Commission is investigating this matter.

Proxy advisors are not shy that they provide investment advice based on political or social issues. In fact, one of the two firms that dominate the marketplace produces multiple reports based on a variety of unnecessary premises like socially responsible investing, faith-based investing, and sustainability investing. While these might be important issues for some individuals, how can a fund, made up of investments from thousands of individuals who harbor thousands of varying different political or cultural views, make decisions with our money that isn't based on producing the greatest return.

Additionally, nothing precludes these proxy advisors from taking money from fund managers on proxy issues while also taking money from corporations to help them attain friendly recommendations. These firms are working both ends of the market and who's to say who's best interest is truly being considered. Greater accountability and oversight must be considered.

Please help bring some much-needed accountability and oversight to the proxy advisory industry to help secure the financial sustainability of millions of hardworking Americans like me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the printed name "Linda Carlson" which is partially visible below it.