

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

Re: File Number S7-22-19

Dear Ms. Countryman,

As someone who is just beginning his career as a professional fire fighter, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help others in my community while building a strong future for myself and my family. This is the first position I have held that includes a guaranteed pension that will be there when I retire, so ensuring my pension is strong and secure is of the utmost importance to me.

For that reason, I am extremely grateful that the SEC is considering strengthening the rules regarding proxy advisory firms and the impact they have over proxy proposals because of the pensions of hardworking public servants like me. I encourage you to move forward with these potential rule changes as quickly as possible.

From what I understand, proxy advisory firms are hired by pension funds to provide voting recommendations. However, rather than providing advice that would most benefit pensioners by maximizing return on investments, these firms are more beholden to political, social, and environmental ideals and have been providing advice that most influences American companies into changing their behavior based on those ideals as opposed to what will promote financial growth.

While I support every American's right to support the causes closest to them, including by investing directly in firms or companies that align with their viewpoints, I do not believe this is ethical or responsible behavior for the management of public pensions. Not only is it unlikely that all pensioners would hold the same values as these activists' agendas, but these kind of politically and socially driven investments have been proven to produce far less than traditional investing, jeopardizing the strength and limiting the growth potential of millions of public pensions like mine.

Proxy advisors should not be able to push their own agendas at the expense of the retirement future of those who rely on these pensions being as strong and stable as possible. Please continue looking into this issue and help bring some much-needed oversight and accountability into the proxy advisory market.

Sincerely,

Ryan Johnston