

Dear [University X] Board of Trustees,

I am writing to urge the Trustees of [University X] to help ensure that our school's investments are not tacitly supporting human rights abuses and environmental devastation, by establishing a comprehensive socially responsible investment policy that would apply to our school's endowment and other investments.

Such a policy would help leverage [University X]'s substantial influence with the companies we are invested in, and ensure that the business practices of those companies are consistent with international human rights norms and high environmental standards. Specifically, I respectfully request that the Trustees take the following actions:

1. Establish a committee on investor responsibility – composed of students, administrators, alumni, and trustees – charged with engaging companies regarding the social consequences of their business practices through proxy resolutions and other forms of corporate dialogue;
2. Develop proxy voting guidelines to explicitly address social, environmental, labor and human rights shareholder proposals;
3. Vote favorably on and publicly support socially and environmentally conscious shareholder proposals;
4. File or co-file socially or environmentally conscious shareholder proposals with companies in which we are invested;
5. Publicize how fund managers have voted on socially and environmentally conscious shareholder proposals.

Along these lines, I would like to draw your attention to the following companies, in which [University X]'s endowments may be invested. [Insert information about specific companies of concern.]

Attached you will find shareholder resolutions filed with each company this year regarding these concerns. [Attach copies of shareholder resolutions.]

These are clear examples of why companies need to protect, and not abuse, human rights and the environment. Moreover, shareholder proposals addressing human rights issues and the environment are not based solely on moral or ethical arguments. There are material liabilities associated with these concerns, extending well beyond reputational damage, which could impact the long-term value of our school's investments.

We urge the [University X] Board of Trustees to use its leverage as a large institutional shareholder to pressure companies to effectively address their social and environmental responsibilities. This would send a powerful message that the status quo is unacceptable, and that companies must match promises of social and environmental responsibility with action. A vote in favor of these resolutions could have a profound impact.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL AFFILIATION: _____