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Fiduciary Duties Regarding Proxy Voting and Shareholder Rights

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

Mr. Jason A. DeWitt
Office of Regulations and Interpretations
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N-5655
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. DeWitt,

I am grateful that the Department of Labor is soliciting comments from the public on the topic of proxy advisor reform. I am certainly not a financial expert but do care deeply about my investments and those of people like me. I have been an elementary music teacher in the White Bear Lake School District in Minnesota. Teachers work very hard and part of our compensation is a pension like it is for many of our neighbors who work for companies that have pensions. I support your efforts to ensure that pension fund investments are free from criteria that are not based on economic criteria.

It does seem that the government could provide more oversight and stricter rules regarding proxy advisor firms. I expect anyone making investment decisions to behave with the utmost

transparency and fiduciary duty. Furthermore, I urge you to address automatic voting of shares by proxy firms whose interests do not match mine and whose activities raise the fees of the pension funds.

Thank you for providing greater oversight of these proxy advisors. People like me cannot have financial futures put at risk.

Respectfully, Jane Burmeister