

Office of Regulations and Interpretations
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Room N-5655
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Attention: Proxy Voting and Shareholder Rights NPRM
Rule Number: RIN 1210-AB91

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

I write today to laud the Department of Labor's proposed rule to rein in the power of proxy voters and protect private pension funds. This critical federal oversight would prohibit third parties, not required to adhere to fiduciary duty, from using hard-earned pension funds to advance non-financial agendas and ensure that the voices of American retirees comes to the forefront of financial decision-making.

Throughout my long career in the financial and banking industry, I have remained committed to helping minority-owned small business grow and succeed. These businesses and their communities depend on reliable and secure retirement pension plans that generate maximum financial yield. In recent years however, a growing number of pension fund managers have used these plans to satisfy political and/or social goals, eschewing the interests of those that have entrusted them with their savings. The proposed rule would put the interest of the beneficiary first – safeguarding economic opportunity and vibrancy for minority communities across the US.

In tandem with the DOL's proposed rule, establishing clear protections around "robo-voting" will play an essential role in protecting investors. This growing threat allows proxy advisors to vote their recommendations without as much as review or confirmation that the recommendations are in line with the fund's financial interests. [Research indicates](#) that a growing number of institutional investors are relying on the recommendations of proxy voters, exposing the earnings of Americans to the whims of politically motivated activists. This is an area where the DOL can strengthen the proposed rule and should be strongly considered to better ensure fiduciary responsibility for investors.

In my experience in this industry, honest and transparent decision-making is of top priority to the small businesses looking for sound investment. I strongly believe that the DOL's proposed rule on proxy voters will reinforce accountable decision-making by investment professionals and strengthen the links in corporate governance.

Thank you for your consideration. I express my full support of this rule and am looking forward to seeing it implemented. Given its importance I am sending copies of this to my two United States Senators Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet and Congresswoman Dianna DeGette.

Sincerely,

Latasha Currie