

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

**Received:** July 17, 2020  
**Status:** Pending\_Post  
**Tracking No.** 1k4-9hv7-5tdw  
**Comments Due:** July 30, 2020  
**Submission Type:** API

**Docket:** EBSA-2020-0004  
Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments

**Comment On:** EBSA-2020-0004-0002  
Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments

**Document:** EBSA-2020-0004-DRAFT-0214  
Comment on FR Doc # 2020-13705

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## General Comment

No good advisor/investor looks only at the "financial return". Size of companies, risk/reward, debt/income, nationality of company, dividend vs. growth orientation, ratings, expenses, managers and other criteria factor into investment decisions. Speculation about future regulations, environmental impacts, taxation, potential litigations, and other external risks are often considered when making an investment in a company/industry. Employees should have the right to consider the types of companies they prefer to invest in considering not just the bottom line numbers but in consideration of their ethical, religious, and corporate governance criteria. Today's/last years/last ten years performance is no guarantee of future performance. EX: Prior to bankruptcy, Enron was termed "the darling of Wall Street" It was held in many mutual funds and pension plans. In 2000, Enron was the seventh largest publicly traded company. By 2001, they filed bankruptcy due to fraud. Returns are important, governance even more so.