

MATT CARTWRIGHT
8TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOV'T.
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VA

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND COMM.
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
1034 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

226 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18503
(570) 341-1050
20 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SUITE 213
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18711
(570) 371-0317
1 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, SUITE 100
HAZLETON, PA 18201
(570) 751-0050
2959 ROUTE 611, SUITE 105
TANNERSVILLE, PA 18372
(570) 355-1818
8 SILK MILL DRIVE, SUITE 213
HAWLEY, PA 18428
(570) 576-8005

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia:

I write in response to the U.S. Department of Labor's proposed rule RIN 1210-AB95 Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments. My primary concern is the potential to suppress investment in and bias choices for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing in retirement plans.

The Department of Labor's criteria as proposed seems designed to bias fiduciaries from offering ESG investments. While no one can predict the actual return of an investment fund, there may be times when ESG funds are a valid, logical choice. Individuals and the plan fiduciaries they trust should be free to choose ESG funds to complement traditional investment funds. This method of investing, as a form of the triple-bottom line (TBL) approach, evolved from an interest in how companies we support impact our communities. This form of investing encourages companies to track and manage economic, social, and environmental value added or destroyed. Additionally, companies with more ESG value tend to plan much more long term, which can make them more profitable as well as sustainable.

Over time, ESG has proven to be a viable investment strategy. Regulations should be used to protect rights, ensure the safety of our citizens, and enable the delivery of goods and services. The U.S. Department of Labor's proposal to restrict ESG investing would infringe on people's rights without benefits to safety or the free exchange of goods. As Congressman, I speak on behalf of the constituents I represent who value their ability to choose how they invest their hard-earned dollars.

I hope the U.S. Department of Labor will continue to allow investors the choice to select ESG funds. Consumers want this as an option, and it promotes a healthy market as well as a healthy and just society. As I was told by a concerned business: our children will thank us for thinking about their futures as well as our own.

Sincerely,

