

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

Dear Mr. Scalia

My name is Tracy Byrd from Virginia and I am writing today to support the Departments recently proposed rule on ESG investing in private pension funds.

As one of the millions of restaurant workers in America today, the past few months have been a tough time for all of us. When the coronavirus shutdown started, I worried about day to day expenses and things like rent and other bills. When things started to open back up, I began to worry if I'd be able to keep up with my contributions to my private pension.

I don't have the luxury to contribute to a company sponsored 401(k). Instead, I contribute every month to a private pension plan to set myself up for a good retirement. My sole intention with contributing to the private pension fund is to provide myself with the best financial situation possible during my retirement. Simply put, I want the best return on my investment possible.

I've read recently that ESG investing and other investing goals motivated by social and political goals have trickled down to private pensions. I hope the DOL goes through with this rule because if my private pension plan manager chose ESG goals over my goals of a comfortable requirement, I'd be extremely unhappy. Imagine if you came to my restaurant and received a meal that wasn't what you ordered and further, tasted worse? I imagine it's how I would feel if ESG investing is allowed to dampen the returns of my private pension plan.

Tracy