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Submitter Information

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General Comment

I am an individual investor who values the opportunity to select SRI and ESG offerings. I appreciate DOL's focus of having a single focus of retirement plans benefiting the plan participants. However, plan participants are increasingly interested in HOW their funds are growing. For example - I value humane treatment of families/employees, children attending school and workers receiving fair compensation. I do not want my retirement funds to grow by mistreating or taking advantage of others. I appreciate having the option of advocating with companies I invest in. I love that my Praxis funds worked with chocolate makers to help them select cocoa options that supported sustainable farming and fair treatment of employees rather than simply buying from the least expensive growers. That sense of responsibility helps those who are being taken advantage of and lets them know they are seen and valued.

I fully understand that I risk lower return and pay higher fees on these funds and I can clearly see these expenses in the reports I receive as well as online at my retirement platform. The extra expense is worth it to me. My priorities are not simply to grow my own nest egg. I want to invest in ways that benefit mankind, my community, and the world I will leave to my children, grandchildren and neighbors.

If the eye of the retirement plan is to be on what the participants want and value, you should focus on making it easier to identify these types of funds so that fund selection is simplified rather than making it difficult for employers to offer them which could easily make it more difficult for participants to invest as their values demand. This next generation will demand more accountability of how money is made - the focus on caring for others, community and our world

is not going to go away. Please seek ways to make it easier to invest in our values rather than making it more difficult. thank you.