

Facebook Shareholder Meeting
Statement in Opposition of Proposal #11
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research, June 20, 2016

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, and I rise to oppose proposal #11.

The proposal is a sham and the proponent is a fraud. The Philadelphia Public Employees Retirement System claims that its proposal is about transparency and good governance. That's not true.

The Philadelphia Public Employees Retirement System is part of a broad network of liberal organizations that use corporate America as a pawn to try to silence speech and defund the free enterprise movement. This network files dozens of resolutions annually complaining about a lack of transparency and accountability regarding corporate lobbying and political activity. However, these groups never – and I mean never – express concern about the billions of corporate dollars that go to fund liberal causes and politicians. And that's the point – the Philadelphia Public Employees Retirement System and its ilk abhor corporate speech when it may skew right, but remain silent when it flows freely to leftist causes.

Facebook has made itself fertile ground for attacks such as this proposal. When liberal activists attacked the company for its affiliation with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), Facebook was quick to end its membership with the organization despite the fact that ALEC works to create a pro-business environment that allows companies such as Facebook to thrive. Obviously, leaving ALEC didn't satiate the activists. Now they want Facebook to dump the Chamber of Commerce – another organization that works to reduce regulatory burdens and government infringement on company operations. Do you see the pattern?

Today's proposal asks the company to turn over lists, to name names. This is intimidation in its highest form.

This proposal has nothing to do with Facebook as a company. And it has even less to do with us Facebook investors. We are just a means to achieve censorship that liberal activists cannot otherwise achieve since the U.S. Constitution protects free speech. Don't let the Philadelphia Public Employees Retirement System silence free speech. Please join me in rejecting proposal #11.

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