

Harley-Davidson Shareholder Meeting Question
David W. Almasi, Vice President
The National Center for Public Policy Research, April 29, 2017

I'm David Almasi of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

In light of the tremendous pressures from left-wing activists and politicians on corporate America to do their bidding and shun the Trump Administration, I want to thank you for making the trip to the White House this past February to meet with the President and share your thoughts with him on creating jobs and strengthening our nation's economy.

Our last president did not act in the best interest of American business. Back then, corporate leaders supported, promoted and even helped implement bad initiatives they knew were wrong just so they could say they still had a seat at the table of power. But there was little to no return on the investment for their complicity with failed policies such as ObamaCare. America has suffered as a result.

The stark change in the political climate on Capitol Hill and in the White House now provides Harley-Davidson and other companies with a unique opportunity to work with the government to roll back the mistakes of past rulemaking and pursue innovative new paths to create jobs and increase wealth. We are glad to see Harley-Davidson is rolling toward that opportunity rather than away from it like Uber and Starbucks.

This brings me to my request. Despite what you might hear from the mainstream media, Hollywood celebrities and radical left, the lawful pursuit of shareholder value is actually a virtue. We want you to be successful – both from our personal investment standpoint as well as our concern for the good of our communities.

Particularly since you have already had the chance to sit down with President Trump to discuss issues such as lowering the corporate tax rate, border adjustment tax and international trade, can you share some of Harley-Davidson's priorities for reform in this new political era? Do you find President Trump to be a partner and proponent as opposed to an adversary like his predecessor? Furthermore, is the company willing to defend itself and the policies it desires from an inevitable backlash the political left inflicts upon all who dare speak against its orthodoxy? How far is Harley-Davidson willing to go to see that a Trump-Harley agenda is successfully implemented?

*Contact: Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or cell (703) 477-7476 or jkent@nationalcenter.org
National Center for Public Policy Research
20 F Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001*

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