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Monday, October 31, 2022

Thomas County Commissioners

State Treasurer Lynn Rogers  
900 SW Jackson, Suite 201  
Topeka, KS 66612

Honorable State Treasurer Lynn Rogers,

The Board of Thomas County Commissioners of Thomas County, Kansas would like to request the State Treasurer look into the KPERS Pension Fund and sell all public equities managed by BlackRock, Vanguard or other banks over their environmental, social and governance (ESG) Initiatives.

Missouri just pulled \$500 million in state pension funds managed by New York based financial institution BlackRock over the company's environmental and social priorities. This is the right thing to do for Kansas state employees who rely on the assets managed by KPERS for their retirement. Fiduciary duty must remain the top priority for investment managers—a duty some of them have abdicated in favor of forcing a left wing social and political agenda that has failed to succeed legislatively, on publicly traded companies.

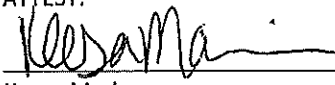
We should not allow asset managers such as BlackRock, who have demonstrated that they will prioritize advancing a woke political agenda above the financial interests of their customers, to continue speaking on behalf of the state of Kansas. It is past time that all investors recognize the massive fiduciary breach that is taking place before our eyes, and do something about it.

KPERS has an obligation to manage its assets in a way that prioritizes providing maximum returns for retirees and taxpayers, not forwarding left-wing policies. We need to prevent tax dollars from being weaponized against state taxpayers.

The following states - West Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Florida, South Carolina, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Arkansas and North Dakota have all pushed back against the ESG movement. We would like to see Kansas added to this list.

Thank you for your time.

ATTEST:

  
Keesa Mariman  
County Clerk



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Mike Baughn, Chairperson

  
Brad Flipse, Member

  
Brian Luedke, Member

COMMISSIONERS  
Mike Baughn, Chairman  
Brad Flipse, Member  
Brian Luedke, Member