MAJORITY OF EXXONMOBIL SHAREHOLDERS CALL ON COMPANY TO ACCOUNT FOR CLIMATE RISK

Pressure Mounts on Oil Major After 52%¹ of Shares Vote In Favor of Proposal

CHICAGO -- May 27, 2022 – Christian Brothers Investment Services, Inc. (CBIS), a leading Catholic, socially responsible investment management firm and Registered Investment Advisor to Catholic investors around the world, has reported that a shareholder proposal urging ExxonMobil (NYSE: XOM) to quantify the potential effect on its business of global action to address climate change garnered over a majority of the vote at the company’s annual meeting.

The proposal, filed by a coalition of two dozen faith-based and socially responsible investors led by CBIS, urged ExxonMobil to issue an audited report assessing the impact of the International Energy Agency’s Net Zero 2050 Scenario (IEA NZE) on the assumptions, costs, estimates, and valuations underlying its financial statements.

According to John Geissinger, CBIS’ Chief Investment Officer, the scenario described in the proposal addresses the shifts in public policy and consumer demand that would accompany the limiting of global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees -- the level scientists indicate cannot be breached if the most catastrophic effects of climate change are to be avoided.

“The majority support for this resolution, along with backing from 49% of shareholders vote last year, is a clarion call among shareholders for ExxonMobil to exercise rigorous oversight of the risks posed by climate change,” says Geissinger. “Clearly, the company’s qualitative descriptions of how it might manage its assets or shift its investments are vastly insufficient for investors to ascertain whether the company would be resilient to accelerating decarbonization.”

Independent analysis by the Carbon Tracker Initiative has detailed the lack of quantification in the company’s disclosures regarding the effect of the scenario’s assumptions on ExxonMobil’s current business model or financial results.

¹Preliminary vote as reported at ExxonMobil annual shareholder meeting, May 25, 2022.
“Companies must adequately reflect the impacts of the climate crisis and the clean energy transition in their financial reporting if shareholders are to have confidence that their capital is being effectively allocated and assets do not become stranded,” said Frank Sherman, Executive Director of Seventh Generation Interfaith Inc., whose members co-filed the proposal. “This reporting is especially crucial for a company like Exxon, whose business strategy appears to be built on continuing growth in demand for hydrocarbons for the next several decades.”

CBIS’ Proxy Exempt Solicitation also highlights the gap between the company’s disclosures and the shareholder request. Reflecting the importance of the issue, this resolution was among the few proposals flagged for consideration by influential investor network Climate Action 100+, and was supported by proxy advisors ISS and Glass Lewis for the second straight year.

“The IEA NZE anticipates that as governments around the world make and implement net-zero commitments, demand for oil and gas may radically fall,” says Geissinger. “Many of Exxon’s peers are already providing quantitative disclosure of the potential impacts of net-zero on their revenues, assets, and liabilities. It’s clear that ExxonMobil’s shareholders believe their company must take the same step.”

In addition to CBIS, filers of the proposal included:

Adrian Dominican Sisters; As You Sow Foundation; Congregation des Soeurs des Saints Noms de Jesus et de Marie; Congregation of Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas; Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica; Benedictine Sisters of Virginia; Bon Secours Mercy Health; CommonSpirit Health; Congregation of St. Joseph, OH; Daughters of Charity, Province of St Louise; Dominican Sisters of Hope; M&G Investments; Maryknoll Sisters; Mercy Investment Services; Monasterio Pan de Vida; Presbyterian Church USA; Providence St. Joseph Health; Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order (Midwest Capuchins); School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province; School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province; School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund; Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, US Ontario Province; Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ.

For more information on the ExxonMobil resolution and CBIS’ other corporate engagements, please visit cbisonline.com.

About Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS)

CBIS is an SEC-registered investment advisory firm amplifying the power of Catholic investors to transform the world. Responsible for more than $10 billion in assets under management, Chicago-based CBIS works with Catholic investors to develop socially responsible investment strategies and solutions that uphold Catholic beliefs and values without sacrificing returns for investors, often taking an engaged ownership role to command change in its investments. Founded in 1981 by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, CBIS engages third-party institutional investment firms to actively sub-advice its portfolios. For more information, visit cbisonline.com, or call 877-550-2247.

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