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Trump Department of Labor's new proxy voting proposal attempts to silence long-term investors, undermine shareholder democracy

NEW YORK -- In response to the Department of Labor's new proposed rule prohibiting ERISA fiduciaries from voting proxies unless a measure meets a narrow definition of economic impact, Eli Kasargod-Staub, Executive Director of [Majority Action](http://MajorityAction.org), a nonprofit shareholder advocacy organization, made the following statement:

“The Trump Department of Labor's proposed rule on voting proxies harms and silences long-term investors. Proxy voting is the means by which shareholders make their voices heard on a company's direction and who is at the helm. Shareholders are increasingly using their voting power to hold corporate boards accountable on critical risks to long-term shareholder value, including those deriving from irresponsible corporate behavior on climate change, racial injustice, and economic inequality.

But just as the Trump administration's actions undermine election security and participation for U.S. citizens, the Trump Department of Labor is trying to shield irresponsible corporate leaders from the consequences of their actions by undermining basic tenets of shareholder democracy and responsible corporate governance. This misguided proposal would harm the working people the Department of Labor should be protecting, those whose savings are invested in our markets and who depend on their retirement funds being able to generate sustainable growth. This proposal will be vigorously opposed by both institutional investors and civil society and deserves all the backlash it will receive.”

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Majority Action is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering shareholders of all sizes to hold corporations and their leadership accountable to high standards of long-term value creation, corporate governance, and social responsibility. www.majorityaction.us