A Faithful Voice for Justice

ABOUT ICCR

Currently celebrating our 45th year, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility has been a leader of the corporate responsibility movement for four decades. Beginning with our calls for corporations to withdraw from South Africa in opposition to apartheid, ICCR members have been actively engaging the world’s largest companies in an effort to transform corporate practices on a host of issues from rooting out human trafficking and supply chain abuses to ensuring safe food and water, to calling for financial and health care reform to protect the world’s most vulnerable. Today our membership is comprised of 300 institutional investors with over $100 billion in invested capital. Representing faith-based communities with congregations all over the world, SRI asset management companies, unions, pension funds and a global network of allies, ICCR members are not only shareholders, but trusted partners in corporate responsibility initiatives that promote a more just and sustainable world.

We do this in a variety of ways:

• CORPORATE DIALOGUES: As active shareowners who have built productive and long-term relationships with management, ICCR members conduct hundreds of dialogues every year to advance a wide range of issues. Because we have a vested interest in a company’s success and propose realistic solutions as opposed to making demands, these dialogues often bear fruit in the form of meaningful reform and have a positive impact on long-term profitability.

• SHAREHOLDER RESOLUTIONS:
   When dialogues are unproductive, ICCR may issue shareholder resolutions to engage management and other investors’ attention around a specific issue.

• CSR TOOLS: ICCR’s database offers members a historical record of shareholder actions with hundreds of companies. Known for our insightful reports on emerging trends such as our Invested in Change: Faith-Consistent Investing in a Climate-Challenged World, and Recruited into Slavery: How Unethical Recruiting Puts Migrant Workers at Risk for Trafficking, along with our ability to convene key stakeholders from the business, NGO, community and investor sectors, ICCR is a resource for all those working in corporate responsibility.

OUR MISSION

ICCR seeks a global community built on justice and sustainability through transformation of the corporate world by integrating social values into corporate and investor actions.

We invite you to join us. We are inspired by faith and committed to action.
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As I pause to craft this mid-winter message to the ICCR community, Mother Nature has once again plunged the major cities of the northeastern U.S. into a massive standstill, with much of public transport paralyzed. The almost balmy temperatures had clearly lulled all of us into thoughts of a milder than usual winter, especially as we prepared to gather for our winter ICCR conference.

January 2016 witnessed the final steps in the ICCR executive transition process that saw us welcome Josh Zinner as our new CEO and bid adieu to our departing ED Laura Berry. We welcome Josh and thank Laura for her contribution to a seamless and smooth transition.

The annual ICCR board retreat was an opportunity for some quality engagement with Josh as we gathered in Techny, IL to spend time getting to know each other better, do a high level briefing on board protocols, and do some initial charting of plans and a review of events and opportunities for the next 12 months.

As most of our members know, the ICCR brand continues to flourish and attract attention in the broader SRI and faith communities as well as in corporate boardrooms and in the media. Our foundation in faith and our platform of strategic engagement with corporations and advocacy for justice across a broad array of issues makes us well-positioned for renewed and sustained growth as we enter this next period. The ever-deepening commitment and capacity of our staff and members will be an essential ingredient to the creative imagining of our vision and the successful renewal of our mission.

Welcoming new members and associates from across the world remains an important part of the ICCR vision. Each time we have been able to welcome new members and new associates our community has been enriched. Their experience, generosity and commitment has stretched us towards new learning and growth and strengthened the voice and resolve of our advocacy.

We are hoping to invest heavily in the kinds of technology that will allow us to gather the complete record of our advocacy and engagement over the years and make it more immediately accessible as we develop new tools and strategies for enhanced corporate engagement. This will also include exploring new avenues for outreach to the broader faith community and civil society, where we hope to identify and welcome new partners with whom we share a common mission.

I know I speak for all of the board of directors in my expression of gratitude to everyone who went the extra mile during the time of transition. May the coming months provide all of us with the time and patience to listen and to share generously with each other as we contribute to making the next period of ICCR’s faith-filled vision even brighter and more exemplary.

Rev. Seamus P. Finn, OMI
Chair, ICCR Governing Board
ICCR Welcomes its New CEO, Josh Zinner

The following is an interview between Josh and ICCR’s Director of Communications, Susana McDermott

What was it that attracted you to pursue the role of CEO at ICCR?

What really attracted me was the potential for doing groundbreaking work in advancing social justice at an organization with such a long and storied history as ICCR. Even in my short time here, I am so impressed with the talent, passion and commitment of the staff and members, and am so excited by both the history of the organization, and the scope of what we can accomplish together.

Can you talk about what it is that makes our coalition unique? What do you see as ICCR’s role in the responsible investment community and what special insights and perspectives do you think our members bring to shareholder engagements?

The unique role of faith-based investors’ voices in pressing corporations on social justice issues is as relevant today as it was during ICCR’s founding during the time of apartheid in South Africa. While ICCR’s membership has evolved to include a wider variety of organizations, faith-based and secular, we are bound together through a deep commitment to social change, and the issues we address together as a shareholder coalition remain fundamentally about the effect of corporate practices on communities. This deep commitment to economic, social, and environmental justice, grounded in faith and combined with years of experience in corporate engagement, gives our coalition a unique and powerful role in holding the world’s largest corporations accountable.

Because so many of ICCR’s faith-based members are linked to ministries on the ground in impacted communities, we are also uniquely positioned to bring community perspectives to the table so that companies better understand the true impact of their practices on affected people. There is tremendous potential in growing this collaborative model to further increase the impact of our corporate engagements and truly hold corporations accountable.

What prior experience or training do you bring to the organization that you think will be of value in your new role as CEO?

As a public interest lawyer and in my previous leadership roles at NGOs, I have had a specific focus in pressing for greater corporate accountability in the financial sector — concentrating in particular on the effect
of banking and financial services practices on low income communities and communities of color prior to, during, and in the aftermath of the financial crash. I have long experience running non-profit organizations and programs, with a deep understanding of how to advance organizational and strategic goals. I have built and facilitated broad coalitions that have advanced successful policy and corporate accountability campaigns. We were successful by forging partnerships with key allies, raising up community voices, using communications effectively, and strategically engaging stakeholders, including policymakers and companies. My years of experience have given me an appreciation of how critical it is to constructively engage corporations, as well as an understanding of how to maximize the impact of those engagements.

One of the things ICCR will be very focused on this year is developing more sophisticated tracking tools to help us better understand the impact of our engagement strategies: what works well and what is not as effective. Being able to more effectively measure the tactics and dynamics that make for a productive corporate engagement will help us develop best practices across the organization and member base, and increase our impact in pressing corporations for social change.

What are some of the priority projects you see for the organization heading into 2016?

One of the things ICCR will be very focused on this year is developing more sophisticated tracking tools to help us better understand the impact of our engagement strategies: what works well and what is not as effective. Being able to more effectively measure the tactics and dynamics that make for a productive corporate engagement will help us develop best practices across the organization and member base, and increase our impact in pressing corporations for social change. There are some data points already being captured, but our staff and members are eager for deeper insights into the process that will help us assess not just the progress being made by companies, but our own effectiveness against the goals we’re setting. We think more effective measurement of progress (or lack thereof) will give us more powerful leverage with corporations, will bolster the skills and capacity of staff and members, and will aid in our strategic communications, influence-building and fundraising.

We are also focused on increasing and diversifying our member base, and on building up the base of existing members who are active in the working groups. We are looking at ways to expand our partnerships with community-based organizations, and at finding other ways to bring community voices to the table in our corporate engagements, including by working with our faith-based members with deep roots in communities. We had early discussions on all of these issues at our February meetings, and we hope to have more in-depth discussions with members at the June AGM.

In general, I am so thrilled to be leading ICCR, and am looking forward to working closely with such a passionate and committed group of people to tackle some of the most critical issues of our times.
As the impacts of climate change increase, corporate water use is coming under greater scrutiny by investors and NGOs. Across the globe, 748 million people lack access to safe, clean drinking water. The agricultural industry consumes roughly 70% of the Earth’s available freshwater, while the remaining industries consume an additional 23%.

ICCR’s members press for improved corporate water stewardship in the food, agribusiness, energy production, automotive, mining, apparel and chemical sectors. ICCR urges corporations to measure and report on their water consumption and water impacts, and to develop both corporate policies and global supplier codes that reflect sustainable water practices that respect the human right to water.

“Pollution from farm runoff poses multiple risks to companies in the meat industry. Investors are pressing Tyson in particular to take robust and measurable steps to prevent water pollution, and set specific, time-bound goals for doing so, to reduce the impacts of its operations on the right to water in nearby communities.”

In late 2015, ICCR launched a public petition calling on Tyson Foods, a leading meat and feed producer, to prevent the health and safety of its workers, to prohibit the use of gestation crates, and to prevent water pollution on Tyson-owned and contracted farms. Tyson produces feed for over 41 million livestock, which creates nitrogen and phosphorus-laced runoff. The company is facing an ongoing federal criminal investigation as well as extensive EPA fines from wastewater discharges at a poultry processing plant in Missouri.

The meat and poultry industry is notorious for its environmental and water impacts, and for serious labor and animal cruelty violations. Said David Moore, of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, supported by consumers from the U.S., Europe, South America and Australia, the petition surpassed its goal of 1,000 signatures. When Tyson failed to respond, investors escalated by filing a shareholder proposal calling on it to adopt a comprehensive water stewardship policy. The resolution will go to a vote of all shareholders this spring.

Tyson is one of 15 food & beverage companies that ICCR and its allies are engaging on water. Also on the list is Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a company which recently responded to investor pressure by agreeing to complete the CDP Water Questionnaire, which will give investors much-needed answers to many key questions they have been asking regarding water risk in corporate supply chains. Other corporations that have begun to take proactive measures to protect their supply chains and help minimize global water stress include Unilever, Nestle and General Mills. Investors are hopeful that their leadership will influence Tyson to follow suit.

In August, investors sent letters to the 15 companies, asking them to improve their water management practices and disclosure. For companies in the food & beverage and agricultural sectors, water risk is an enormous issue; companies face supply chain disruption due to more frequent drought, excessive withdrawals from underground aquifers and growing competition for water. In turn this, increases their capital expenditures, and constrains their revenue growth.

Companies can take a number of practical steps to reduce risk, including setting specific goals for water quality and conservation, and setting reduction goals for water use at all levels.

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Tackling Food Waste to Fight Hunger and Climate Change

ICCR’s food group members advocate for sustainable food production policies that minimize environmental and social impacts, and respect the universal right to food. Each year, approximately 40% of food produced in the U.S. — nearly 133 billion pounds, or $165 billion dollars’ worth — goes uneaten. These are troubling figures when you consider that nearly 50 million Americans, (including 16 million children) go to bed hungry each night and that a 15% reduction in industrial food waste could generate enough food to feed 25 million people each year.

Beyond the lost opportunity to feed the hungry, most food waste goes directly into landfills where, through decomposition, it produces dangerous greenhouse gas emissions responsible for driving climate change. In fact, food waste in landfills is responsible for 23% of all methane emissions and 4.5% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Food waste also includes precious natural resources, accounting for 25% of water, 30% of fertilizer, and 31% of cropland wastage in the U.S.

This fall, ICCR members began tackling food waste by sending letters to thirteen companies, including Brinker International, Buffalo Wild Wings, Costco, Cracker Barrel, Healthcare Services Group, Hilton Worldwide, McDonald’s, Papa John’s, Restaurant Brands, Supervalu, Texas Roadhouse, and the Wendy’s Company, inviting them to discuss the issue and begin to develop strategies to reduce these inefficiencies. The work is being done in collaboration with Trillium Asset Management and Ceres.

Separately, ICCR members that are large, institutional purchasers of food, such as hospital systems, have begun to educate their procurement departments about these concerns and are using their influence as customers by bringing food service companies like Aramark into the conversation.

Pending food waste regulation should also serve as an impetus for companies to proactively address the issue. California, Massachusetts and Vermont already have laws requiring large producers of organic waste to divert it from landfills, creating potential regulatory risk for retailers who lack formal food waste programs. At the federal level, Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree is currently drafting a bill targeting food waste at the consumer level, in schools, grocery stores and restaurants, and throughout federal government. And in September, the USDA and EPA announced the first national food waste reduction target calling for a 50% reduction by 2030.

“Food waste is a complex and far-reaching issue that poses significant business and regulatory risks,” Said Nadira Narine, ICCR Program Director. “And yet, there are numerous, measurable ways that companies can reduce food waste within their operations, and in doing so, realize significant cost savings and enhanced profitability with meaningful impact on society and the environment.”

There are a number of practical steps companies can take immediately to reduce food waste within their supply chains, including:

• Conducting audits to determine the causes, quantity and destination of food waste
• Composting as a part of waste minimization
• Recycling organic waste and rotisserie oil, if applicable

Several companies are already reaping financial rewards from enhanced efficiency efforts. The Stop & Shop supermarket chain has reportedly saved $100 million annually by reducing losses of perishables while providing items that were 3 days fresher. Similarly, Price Chopper reduced bakery item losses by $2 million in one year, while increasing sales by 3%.

Said Noah Klein-Markman, Senior Associate for Sustainable Agriculture at Ceres, “Measuring and setting goals to reduce food waste is an important way for companies to reduce emissions, save money, and help feed those in need.”

Momentum to address food waste is building among companies across multiple sectors. A number of companies are pursuing comprehensive action to reduce food waste and others are committing to waste reduction targets. The 400 corporate members of the Consumer Goods Forum including brands such as Danone, Facebook and Hershey’s, have committed to halving food waste by 2025. And Safeway, Target, and Kroger have joined top brands such as Campbell’s, ConAgra, Darden and General Mills as members of the Food Waste Reduction Alliance, a collaborative industry effort representing food and beverage manufacturers, food retailers and food service companies, to develop industry best practices to combat food waste.
Keeping Kids’ Nutrition Top of Mind at America’s Retailers

Health experts agree that childhood obesity, particularly among children in low-income and minority households, is partially due to the limited access and affordability of healthier food and beverage choices. But a major factor in this choice hinges on the way these products are marketed to kids. For this reason, as part of ICCR’s Access to Nutrition Initiative, shareholders are engaging media companies and fast food and casual-dining chains to encourage more responsible marketing practices that will encourage healthier food choices and lifestyles for children.

ICCR partners with children’s health advocacy groups MomsRising, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the Rudd Center, the Berkeley Media Studies Group, and the Children’s Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative (CBFAI). The work is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

ICCR urges companies in different sectors to take practical steps to help protect children’s health, from reducing the fat and salt content of their foods, to improving in-store product placement, and creating healthy, candy-free checkout aisles. One good example is Walmart’s “Great for You” icon, a front-of-pack label that Walmart uses to give its customers an easier way to identify healthy food.

As a result of these efforts, ICCR’s members and their allies are seeing signs of progress. Several companies are beginning to institutionalize prioritization of “health and wellness” in their governance structures, designating high-level leadership for nutrition-related initiatives and integrating nutrition into corporate social responsibility oversight and reporting mechanisms. Said Sarah Margolis, ICCR Associate Program Director, “The retailers that we’ve engaged have demonstrated in a variety of ways that they recognize both the social responsibility that attends their widespread cultural influence, and the importance of the ‘health and wellness’ category to today’s consumers.”

A clear example of progress from member engagements is coming from the restaurant sector. Within the past 2 years, McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Subway, Chipotle, Arby’s, and Panera dropped sugary drinks from their kids’ menus, signaling that the fast food and casual dining chains are recognizing the health risks of serving these drinks to children. New momentum came this past November, when DineEquity, owner of Applebee’s and IHOP, removed sodas from its kids’ menus, after being engaged by ICCR shareholders. The decision was heralded as an important step forward. Said ICCR member Donna Meyer of Mercy Investment Services, “As their investors, we are pleased to see them eliminate the risks sugary drinks pose for kids, and view this move as a harbinger of future progress on health-related concerns.”

ICCR and other members of the Food Marketing Workgroup were also invited to assist in the discussion of updating the “Health and Sustainability Guidelines” of the Department of Health and Human Services and the General Services Administration.

Margolis also attended the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Childhood Obesity conference in early December, with the goal of helping to strengthen the impact of ICCR’s Access to Nutrition work through collaboration with representatives from partner organizations across the country.

ICCR members also continue to engage the companies in their portfolios via the proxy resolution process. This fall, members filed a shareholder resolution with entertainment giant Time Warner, asking the company to help foster healthy nutrition for children. The resolution is part of a broader ICCR initiative to help protect children’s online privacy and shield them from invasive online marketing of junk food, and includes a new human rights risk assessment resolution sent in late 2015 to Google Inc./Alphabet challenging the paid ads that run on the company’s YouTube Kids app.

In the spring of 2016, ICCR’s Access to Nutrition group plans to host a Retailer Roundtable focusing on marketing to children at retail.

Said Margolis, “The Roundtable will bring companies from a variety of sectors together with investors and NGOs to develop strategic initiatives to help protect children’s health that will benefit both retailers and consumers.”
Ratcheting up Corporate Responsibility on Human Rights

An estimated 20.9 million people are victims of human trafficking. Learning to spot human rights violations, including human trafficking and slavery, requires attention, time and training and without this, it is easy to miss the crimes that may lurk right under our noses. The same is true of companies: unless attention, time and training are brought to bear on these insidious crimes, companies can easily find themselves embroiled in legal and public relations quagmires with long-term financial impacts.

For this reason, in our engagements with companies, ICCR has always insisted that strong policies and reporting are key to eradicating human rights risks in complex and often extensive global supply chains. For years we have argued in favor of human rights impact assessments that include due diligence mechanisms such as auditing, reporting, and verification. Now, there is progress being made on two critical fronts: legislation and reporting, that will help companies and their investors better address these risks.

The Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015

ICCR is leading a global coalition of 112 faith-based and socially responsible investors, pension funds and research organizations with collective assets valued at over $1 trillion in voicing strong support for The Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015 (H.R.3226/S.1968) — legislation that will require companies and their investors better address these risks.

If enacted, The Act would require companies with over $100 million in worldwide gross receipts to disclose measures they have taken to identify and address the risks of forced labor, human trafficking and child labor throughout their supply chains. Because the bill, would require all publicly traded or private entities across all sectors to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, this legislation is intended to have broad international impact and will set new standards for corporate disclosure of human rights risks. ICCR has launched a campaign urging investors, NGOs and individuals to write letters to members of Congress to increase the number of co-sponsors of this critical legislation. Visit http://www.iccr.org/how-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking-modern-day-slavery to lend your support.

The International Reporting Framework and the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark

The authoritative road map for understanding a company’s responsibilities regarding human rights due diligence is the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011.

Launched last year, the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework is the first comprehensive guidance for companies to report on human rights issues in line with the UNGP. According to its website: the Reporting Framework provides a concise set of questions to which any company should strive to have answers in order to know and show that it is meeting its responsibility to respect human rights in practice. The investor coalition supporting the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework is led by Lauren Compere of Boston Common Asset Management, and has grown to include 82 investors representing $4.8 trillion in assets under management.

Another reporting initiative, the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB) will rank the top 500 globally listed companies according to their human rights policies, processes and performance. Its intention is to facilitate evaluation of corporate performance on key human rights KPIs, exposing where companies are excelling and where they need improvement. ICCR members provided input on the KPIs in February. A voluntary initiative, the CHRB initiative exploits the competitive nature of markets and corporate management by fostering a “race to the top” to drive improved human rights performance and build best practice standards. Initially focusing on a list of companies in three high-risk sectors — apparel, food/beverage/agriculture and extractives — the CHRB will measure company performance against a set of targets, and benchmark that performance against sector peers. Developed by Aviva, Eiris, VBDO, The Business and Human Rights Resource Center, Calvert Investments and the Institute for Human Rights and Business, the CHRB will be launched in a pilot this coming spring.
The High Cost of Health

Lobbying and Political Contributions by Health Care Companies

A mericans pay more for their medicine than anyone else in the world – prices for the world’s top-selling 20 drugs are three times higher in the U.S. than in England, and two times higher than in Canada. Traditionally, drug companies have placed the blame for these high prices on the expensive and time-consuming process of bringing a new drug to market through research and development.

ICCR members make a different argument. “We believe that access to health care is a human right, and expect the pharmaceutical companies we hold in our portfolios to find ways to bend the cost curve to improve access and affordability for consumers,” said Donna Meyer of Mercy Investment Services. “Further, we believe reasonable drug pricing will prove to be more profitable for drug companies, in the long run.”

Pharmaceutical companies, health insurers, and medical device manufacturers lobby heavily on issues related to health care, donating significant and often undisclosed sums to political candidates, parties and action committees that in turn, promote public policy and legislation that protects their interests. In 2015, pharmaceutical companies spent over $231 million in lobbying activities — more than any other industry. This flood of corporate money is just one of the legacies of the Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision.

Most pharmaceutical companies are members of industry groups like the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (“BIO”). In 2009, PhRMA and its member companies spent an astounding $40 million lobbying Congress to prevent the passage of the Affordable Care Act – more than $3 million each month.

Many drug companies are also members of the conservative model legislation group the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). ALEC has sought to privatize both Medicare and Medicaid, and repeal important laws that would expand access to health care.

“We question whether healthcare companies’ maintaining membership in ALEC is truly consistent with their missions and values,” said Judy Byron, Coordinator of the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment. “In addition, transparent reporting of lobbying activities would reveal to shareholders whether company assets are being used for objectives contrary to our companies’ publicly-stated interests.”

Throughout 2016, members of ICCR plan to engage 10 companies, including Abbott Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Pfizer, to ask for increased transparency regarding their drug pricing strategies. These dialogues will supplement the four resolutions members filed at AbbVie, Anthem, Pfizer and Philip Morris in late 2015, questioning their membership in the Chamber.

Climate Change as a Health Care Issue

Climate change is a critical public health issue – one that hospitals need to address. Every year, U.S. hospitals emit 8 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gases, generate more than 5.9 million tons of waste, and spend more than $6.5 billion on energy costs. While many hospitals are beginning to adopt more climate-friendly policies that promote energy conservation and rely more on renewable energy sources, the health care sector still must do more to reduce its collective environmental footprint. If hospitals commit to making the necessary changes, they will not only improve the overall health of staff, patients, and communities – they can also save an estimated $15 billion over the next decade.

Although progress has been slow, more and more hospitals are recognizing the importance of going green and are instituting sustainable practices. In fact, during the recent COP21 Conference on Climate Change, Health Care Without Harm announced that 67 organizations, representing 8,200 hospitals and health centers in 16 countries, had pledged to reduce their carbon emissions by 2020.

Helping to get us there is ICCR member Dignity Health, which was awarded multiple silver medals in the 1st annual Climate Champion Awards of the 2020 Health Care Climate Challenge, which measures institutional progress on climate mitigation, resilience and leadership. “As leaders in health care, we share a mission to protect our patients and help our communities live healthier lives. And increasingly, our patients are beginning to expect and demand that we make sustainability a priority. As an industry and a ministry, we have a moral responsibility to address climate change head-on,” said Susan Vickers, RSM, vice president for corporate responsibility at Dignity Health.
The Connection between Corporate Lobbying and Climate Change

**Virtually every corporation participates in some sort of lobbying activity and donates to candidates, political parties and Political Action Committees (PACs) — some spending millions per year — to further their business interests. As we move into the 2016 Presidential election cycle, these activities will only increase. In fact, the 2016 Presidential campaign is already on track to more than double the spending of the 2012 election to $5 billion.**

Of concern to investors is that, due to changes in campaign financing brought about by the Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision, the recipients of these corporate donations will remain undisclosed. Investors see this lack of transparency as a clear business risk, citing occasions when companies have funded organizations and candidates that promote legislative and regulatory agendas at odds with their stated missions. For that reason, since 2011, ICCR members led by AFSCME and Walden Asset Management have been filing resolutions that request increased disclosure of corporate lobbying and political contributions. Shareholders typically ask corporations to list their lobbying payments made at the Federal and State levels, payments to trade associations used for lobbying, contributions to, or in opposition to, political candidates, parties, and committees, as well as to disclose membership in organizations that write model legislation.

Since the campaign began, a number of companies have made significant steps regarding disclosure. Aetna, the Corrections Corporation of America, Eastman Chemical, Endo International, Microsoft, and PepsiCo have recently made disclosure commitments. In addition, more than 100 companies, including Emerson Electric, General Electric, Google, Sprint and T-Mobile, have left controversial model-legislation group ALEC. A shareholder proposal recently filed by Zevin Asset Management led Walmart to finally disclose its state by state lobbying payments, making it the first large company to do so in the U.S.

**Corporate lobbying disclosure remains largely voluntary, however, and the inability to enforce compliance makes for an uneven playing field.** Said Sonia Kowal of Zevin Asset Management, “Investors need a uniform standard of disclosure. Voluntary reporting by corporations is certainly welcome and an important indicator of corporate responsibility, but only an SEC rule can ensure the uniform standard of reporting that is needed to guarantee investors receive the information they need to properly assess the risks and opportunities of corporate political spending and lobbying.”

Perhaps the biggest target for corporate lobbying in the U.S. over the last five years has been federal and state regulatory efforts to curtail GHG emissions. As the recent COP21 meetings in Paris illustrate, the world needs to act urgently to stem the most devastating impacts of climate change. Some companies, however, continue to actively undermine climate policy by funneling large sums of money through trade associations that lobby on behalf of businesses to thwart proposed regulation.

“Because trade associations can’t be compelled to disclose either their membership or their sources of funding, they essentially provide a cloak of invisibility for companies wishing to skirt greater accountability.” — Jeffery Perkins

In a push back, in August over 60 investors including many ICCR members, sent a joint letter to Chamber member companies, urging them to speak up against the group’s opposition to the EPA and the Clean Power Plan. In addition, ICCR members filed 27 resolutions addressing anti-climate change lobbying and another 52 on GHG reduction and green energy alternatives for the 2016 season.
“A small gavel, but it can do great things.”
Getting things done at COP21

With the swing of his tiny green gavel and more than a touch of emotion, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius announced a final, historic climate agreement and the close of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, COP21, on December 12th.

Before the world begins dissecting the precise terms and implications of the agreement, or pointing out its potential limitations and loopholes, it is important to take a moment to celebrate it for the unexpected achievement it is. The COP21 agreement demonstrated a rare moment of global solidarity and goodwill in the midst of a geo-political landscape rife with acrimony and bitter divisions. Just weeks after a senseless act of terrorism threatened to derail the talks, brinkmanship was temporarily suspended, and our fragile interdependence, both on one another and on the earth, was universally conceded by all participating nations. Global leaders, confronted with the shared threat of climate change, together found common cause in a plan to try to combat it.

For the first time, 187 countries - nearly every country in the world - acknowledged their individual responsibilities to submit targets for GHG emissions reductions to keep global warming beneath the 2°C increase considered by experts to be the point of no return. These commitments signal a giant leap forward from prior COPs and, along with significant pledges from leading brands and investors to comply with governmental agreements, augers well for accelerating the transition to a low-carbon energy future.

When viewed in this context, the agreement was nothing short of a miracle.

These are the key agreements:

1. Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) should peak as soon as possible, to inhibit a further increase in global warming to well below 2°C, and to below 1.5°C if possible. The lower temperature target is vital to protect vulnerable communities from rising sea levels and intense weather, particularly given the climate impacts already being felt.

2. To review progress on reducing GHG emissions every five years, beginning in 2018, in a transparent process in which all countries will be required to report regularly on their progress towards achieving their nationally determined contributions. While countries aren’t legally bound to meet the targets, they are compelled to report every five years, which establishes a much needed accountability mechanism which investors should applaud.

3. Reduction targets will be differentiated to allow developing nations to achieve their goals without unduly prejudicing their economies. ICCR members believe a rapid transfer of clean energy technology to the developing world would help accelerate the building of the low-carbon economy we need.

4. To provide $100 billion annually to developing nations through a combination of public and private flows (with the primary mechanism being the Green Climate Fund), to aid in the mitigation of GHG emissions and adaptation to climate change. Financial commitments on this order, and larger, are a cost-effective means of preserving the climate stability we need for functioning global supply chains and thriving communities.

The Moral Argument
For ICCR members, who have been engaging corporations on climate-related topics for nearly three decades, climate change has always been one of the most critical moral issues of our time and the COP21 meetings helped to clarify this reality. In the words of
Rev. Séamus Finn, ICCR’s Board Chair, “With a missionary presence and relationships in the world’s most vulnerable communities, faith institutions recognize climate change’s potential to exacerbate the suffering caused by extreme poverty and inequality. The environmental crisis facing our planet transcends politics, economics and science; it is, at bottom, a moral and ethical crisis.”

In June, Pope Francis published his groundbreaking Encyclical, Laudato Si’ calling all people to be in right relationship with the earth and to acknowledge climate change for the threat to justice and economic equality it represents. President Obama made climate change a central focus of his administration in 2015 and in August introduced the Clean Power Plan to reduce the carbon emissions of U.S. power utilities, calling it “a moral obligation”.

Bolstered by these and other voices from faith communities and environmental groups demanding climate justice for the climate vulnerable, in 2016 the ICCR community will be amplifying its voice in the climate change discussion. Apart from the standard risks – financial, legal, reputational – that comprise most investor dialogues, this year investors are speaking more forcefully to the moral risk of inertia on climate change, which if left unchanged, will prove catastrophic for generations to come. To underscore this, a 2016 shareholder proposal filed with ExxonMobil calls for the company to acknowledge the moral imperative to limit global warming to 2 degrees C citing the societal consequences of climate change, including forced migration, food insecurity, and conflict.

Additional Initiatives
Outside of the main work to hammer out a climate agreement there were many side initiatives that cropped up as a result of the COP talks. Here are a few that we are watching with interest:

Mission Innovation/Breakthrough Energy Coalition: At present, the gap between the financing that exists and what is needed to build a sustainable energy future is vast: the Ceres Clean Trillion report calls for an additional one trillion in clean energy investment each year through 2030. In an attempt to incentivize just such a shift to renewables, the Mission Innovation and Breakthrough Energy Coalition seeks to forge public-private partnerships that will help make renewables more affordable. Participants include 20 countries committed to doubling their governmental and/or state-directed clean energy research and development investment over five years. These investments will be guided by a set of principles, intended to drive the commercialization and deployment of zero-emission technologies worldwide. Its group of 28 world renowned investors will make an unprecedented commitment to invest patient capital in early-stage technology development. We look forward to hearing about the successes this group is bound to produce.

Beyond Paris
ICCR members formally submitted comments on the EPA’s proposed rule governing methane emissions on December 3, 2015. While energy companies have resisted regulation in the past, in light of the corporate commitments generated by the COP21 meetings, ICCR is actively soliciting strong industry support of the proposed rules. In the coming months ICCR members will follow up with their companies to discuss exactly how they plan to implement the agreements reached at COP21.

We hope that the many agreements and innovations the talks set in motion are successfully implemented, and that the “small gavel” used to signal the end of the meetings comes to symbolize the beginning of a new, yet vital spirit of collaboration among world leaders to act aggressively on climate change.
Methane Emissions: A Powerful Driver of Climate Change

Natural gas, touted as a ‘clean fuel’, is composed mostly of methane, and when burned, is less carbon polluting than other fossil fuels. Released into the atmosphere, though, methane is a dangerous greenhouse gas and a powerful contributor to climate change, with an impact on global temperature roughly 84 times that of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. And methane, when leaked during natural gas production or fracking operations, is often co-emitted with volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants, which contribute to smog and endanger public health. The recent massive leak in southern California shows how damaging methane leaks can be. Thousands of people outside of Los Angeles have had to be relocated due to air pollution associated with the leak, and Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a State of Emergency.

The EPA recently proposed draft rules to reduce methane emissions on new and modified infrastructure, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is expected to soon issue rules guiding methane releases on public lands. While energy companies typically resist regulation, ICCR members have called for strong industry support of the proposed rules as a demonstration of corporate commitment to help counter climate change. Investors hope that leaks from existing sources will also be tackled in a similar rule-making process, as this is where the bulk of the problem lies.

Investors view the EPA rulemaking as an important step toward tackling climate change and advancing more sustainable practices by energy companies, one that is aligned with company financial interests. Cutting methane and associated air emissions is important not only to protect people and the environment, but also presents economic benefits by preventing waste, and reducing the significant financial risks of climate change to individual businesses and the broader economy. The health, environmental, and economic impacts of methane and associated air emissions are substantial, and there are many cost-effective technologies and services available to business to reduce them.

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Flaring (burning) methane is the most widely used form of methane control in the U.S., and while it is better than allowing it to leak into the atmosphere, it is still a waste of product. Investors hope that the EPA’s rule targeting new infrastructure will provide a robust foundation for a subsequent rule addressing existing infrastructure.

An ICCR-led coalition of 37 investors, including asset management companies, hospital systems, mutual funds, and faith-based organizations, sent letters to 31 leading oil & gas and energy companies, voicing their concerns about the impact of methane emissions on climate change and urging them to engage constructively in the rulemaking process by filing public comments that:

1. Share corporate data and experience with methane monitoring and management, and;

2. Provide a specific and solutions-oriented perspective on how methane rules can be designed to drive substantial emission reductions in a cost-effective manner.

Companies that have responded in writing to date include ConocoPhillips, Kinder Morgan, Questar and Williams. In addition, members have had constructive dialogues about the proposed rule with Anadarko, Apache, Chesapeake, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, EOG and ExxonMobil. Additional meetings are planned with Valero and SM Energy.

Investors will continue to talk with companies about problems related to methane leaks from existing equipment. Meanwhile, the EPA is expected to complete the rule in 2016, after a 60-day public comment period.
Moments from ICCR’s 2016 Winter Conference

Claire Deroche of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock and Karen Gaines of Auburn Theological Seminary

Members of ICCR’s Global Health Team with Jayasree Iyer of the AtMI Foundation

Sr. Nora Nash of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia shares her wisdom with members of NextGen

Marcela Pinilla, Josh Zinner and Conrad MacKerron

ICCR Program Directors David Schilling and Nadira Narine, during ICCR’s Winter Conference.

New member introductions at ICCR’s 2016 Winter Conference.
The number of resolutions filed by ICCR members for the 2016 AGM season rose just over 12% this season to 257, a continuation of a four-year trend.

ICCR members filed a record 91 resolutions addressing climate change, more than at any time in their history. These filings were motivated in large part by growing recognition of the need for immediate and extensive action on climate change, and by this fall’s historic COP21 agreement in Paris, where 187 countries pledged to do their part to keep global warming below 2°C. Fifty-two of these resolutions dealt primarily with climate change, while an additional 39 addressed it indirectly, as one of multiple concerns.

Resolutions addressed climate change holistically, from 6 angles – while many resolutions asked corporations to set science-based GHG reduction targets or renewable energy goals, others took more unusual approaches, framing their “asks” within the context of corporate governance, and called on, for instance, proxy voting services to report on discrepancies between their actual voting practices against climate proposals, and their publicly stated positions in favor of greater disclosure around climate change risk. Similarly, some resolutions asked that sustainability metrics, such as GHG emissions monitoring, be incorporated into executive incentive plans. Still others challenged corporate lobbying expenditures and membership in the Chamber of Commerce, which has mounted an attack on the EPA’s new Clean Power Plan addressing climate change.
In this hotly contested presidential election year, filings addressing corporate lobbying and political contributions disclosure predictably constituted the second substantial segment of ICCR member resolutions, comprising 24% (or, 62 resolutions) of total filings. Shareholders are concerned that corporations continue to invest millions of dollars in undisclosed “dark money” to influence our legislative and political systems, and exert their influence through membership in and donations to organizations like the Chamber and the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Corporate governance filings rose this year, with 40 resolutions – up from 22 a year ago. Seventeen of these dealt with shareholder rights. Twelve asked that all non-binding matters presented by shareholders be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast for and against an item, excluding abstentions, whose inclusion disadvantages shareholders. Other resolutions called for giving each share an equal vote, arguing that by allowing certain stock (i.e., Class A stock vs. Class B or C) to have more voting power than others, companies take shareholders’ money but don’t give them an equal voice in company management.

Beyond the expected requests for increased diversity in corporate boardrooms (15 filings), and for workplace policies barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression (6), there were new inclusiveness resolutions calling for greater workplace diversity. In addition, another new resolution called on companies to close the gender “wage gap” between men and women that has been the subject of much attention in the press this past year.

New food proposals called on companies to assess and report on working conditions in meat processing plants. A new resolution on food waste and loss, which costs Americans an estimated $165 billion per year, was filed at Whole Foods.

Again this year, companies were asked to disclose their water risks, and report on the impact of water on their business operations. An innovative shareholder resolution this year called for companies to implement programs to facilitate safe disposal of prescription drugs, to better prevent water pollution and protect public health.

There were 20 human rights and human trafficking filings this year, a number of which asked transportation companies to implement human trafficking prevention training programs. Another resolution sent to Best Buy, CVS, Chipotle, Panera, and Staples called for adoption of principles for minimum wage reform.

These are just a few examples of the resolutions ICCR members are sponsoring this proxy season. For additional analysis, and to read the full texts of this year’s resolutions, please visit www.iccr.org where you can download our 2016 Proxy Resolutions and Voting Guide. After reviewing your portfolio, we encourage you to support those resolutions you can.

ICCR members filed a record 91 resolutions addressing climate change, more than at any time in their history.
What are the goals of the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan (USLP), and how is Unilever engaging other companies and stakeholders to make transformational change?

Our Plan sets out three big goals:

1) Improving Health and Well-Being: By 2020 we will help more than a billion people take action to improve their health and well-being.

2) Reducing Environmental Impact: By 2020 our goal is to halve the environmental footprint of the making and use of our products as we grow our business.

3) Enhancing Livelihoods: By 2020 we will enhance the livelihoods of millions of people as we grow our business.

I am responsible for the third goal – Enhancing Livelihoods – under which are three separate pillars: Fairness in the Workplace (all about human rights); Opportunities for Women (focusing on rights and economic empowerment) and Inclusive Business (improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, supporting small-scale retailers, and helping young entrepreneurs).

We know that to really make progress we need to work in partnership with others and create fundamental systems change. We are deepening our efforts in three areas where we have the scale, influence and resources to create ‘transformational change’: eliminating deforestation, making sustainable agriculture the mainstream and working towards universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

I am pleased with how the debate around climate change has evolved recently to focus on the human face of climate change and its consequences. This is critical. In COP21 and recently in Davos, there was much discussion about climate and fundamental rights. So although this is about climate change risks, it is also about social risks. Palm oil is one of the key commodities that we are focusing on in terms of human rights risk. We know that poor working conditions, including abusive conditions for migrant labourers is prevalent in this sector and others, so we are working with industry organisations, with civil society and with our suppliers.

Traceability is absolutely key to this debate – we need to know where the palm oil is coming from. As of last November, 20% of our palm oil already came from physically certified sources and we are implementing a robust traceability and risk verification system on the ground with the Global Forest Watch tool in partnership with the World Resources Institute, as well as our other partners Proforest and Daemeter. This has not been an easy journey. There are a number of staging posts towards the highest level of sustainability and we need the whole industry to move towards this.

100% of the palm oil for our new Sei Mangkei factory is traceable to mills and potentially links to 25,000 independent smallholders in the surrounding area. Our
ambition is to make this a replicable model in Indonesia and Malaysia, not only for us but for others in the industry also in order to work towards ensuring that the palm oil is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The company has taken strong, public leadership in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What is the role of business in taking concrete steps to realize the 17 ambitious goals by 2030?

Business has a vital role in this. The goals simply will not be achieved without business. In fact our CEO Paul Polman and former UN Deputy Secretary General, Mark Malloch-Brown just launched in Davos the Global Commission on Business and Sustainable Development. This will work over the next year to articulate and quantify the compelling economic case for businesses to engage in achieving the SDGs. Doing so will result in significant economic and social rewards. Not doing so will result in further instability and inequality amongst other things.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP) call on companies to respect human rights and to assess the impact of their operations, supply chains and communities. How does Unilever measure its impacts on people and communities?

Unilever was the first company to comprehensively use the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework when we published our first human rights report in June last year. This sets out our 360 degree approach to the respect — and promotion — of human rights. It lists 8 salient issues which we believe are at risk of the most severe negative impacts through our activities or business relationships and describes our approach - including human rights impact assessments and risk mapping on both country and commodity level. Measuring impact — both negative and positive — is difficult and building frameworks for better data collection, verification and analysis and moving from qualitative to quantitative metrics are key priorities for us.

Grievance mechanisms are a key element of understanding and addressing critical issues to the communities that matter most, employees and workers and those we impact through our businesses. We are focused on strengthening them. This is where working with civil society and trade unions is so important to ensure that we have the mechanisms in place for the voices of workers and communities to be heard. We know we have more work to do on this.

What is the value of human rights reporting for the company itself and for rights-holders?

Transparency is critical for the upholding of human rights. And human rights reporting has both external and internal value. Externally of course it is a crucial way for companies to be held accountable to rights-holders and how this affects the purchasing decisions of consumers — and investors. Internally, it is the mirror that we should use to hold up to ourselves to ask whether our practices and procedures are enabling us to deliver our social sustainability ambitions. The preparation of our Human Rights Report led to extremely valuable conversations with different functions from across our business. It was also a great way to engage with our employees — both being proud where we are making progress but also being honest about the challenges. Finally, transparency has a multiplier effect because it brings to the forefront critical issues that must first be recognized by all actors. Only then, we can effectively address root causes to achieve systemic change.

Modern slavery is found in every sector, including food and agriculture. What is Unilever doing to prevent slavery and support ethical recruitment so that workers never have to pay fees to obtain employment?

We have identified forced labour as one of our key salient human rights issues. To respond to this we strengthened our Policy Framework and I have set up an internal cross-functional working group to map the requirements of reporting obligations, such as the UK Modern Slavery Act, against our current due diligence and practices. This will assess the effectiveness of what we have in place and establish an action plan to make improvements if necessary. We will also review and where needed strengthen our awareness raising and capacity building programmes. Again, appropriate grievance and reporting mechanisms are vital elements of this. Importantly, we have promoted industry action and were very involved in the construction of the Consumer Goods Forum’s new social ambition to help eradicate forced labor. I believe that only by working together we will have a real impact.

What role has ICCR played through its shareholder engagement of Unilever?

I have had the privilege to know ICCR for many years now, prior to my arrival to Unilever and recognize its impact as a pioneer of the socially responsible investment movement in U.S. In my experience, each engagement has provided an insightful perspective on shareholder view and priorities. ICCR has also pioneered shareholder resolutions that spotlighted necessary changes in many companies. However, I value most the ongoing dialogue. And I couldn’t conclude this interview without mentioning ICCR Sr. Program Director David Schilling, who has been a trusted voice and contributor over many years.
ICCR MEMBER PROFILES

Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS)

In each issue of the Corporate Examiner, we profile an ICCR member organization and its work in corporate social responsibility. Below we spoke with Julie Tanner.

In keeping with Catholic teaching, CBIS practices Catholic Responsible Investing (CRI)—i.e., a blend of screening, corporate engagement (active ownership) and diversified investing. This involves working on behalf of organizations to align their investments with their beliefs.

How can CRI help create reforms that benefit workers, local communities and the environment while also potentially reducing investment risk?

It is the active ownership component of our CRI approach that has the most direct impact on people—while screening helps send a message and is a powerful tool in shaping our efforts on issues like weapons manufacturing, active corporate engagement helps us in raising critical issues with an aim towards influencing the strategies, policies and practices of corporations in our portfolios.

Our legacy of active ownership dates back over 30 years—by actively engaging corporate management and board members, we have shown that we can have a positive effect on how they impact communities, their employees and the environment.

While active ownership may not directly impact returns in the short term, we believe that it can impact shareholder value over time. For example, there can be great risks to companies from inattention to environmental and social issues, including financial, regulatory, legislative, legal, and reputational risks. We believe that companies are better able to avert risk by developing robust and substantive policies and programs that can more adequately protect shareholder value in the long term. This long-term perspective can help make companies not only more ethical and responsible but also better investments that are in-line with Church teaching.

How does membership in ICCR help CBIS? Has CBIS been able to enhance its impact by coordinating its efforts with other institutional investors?

CBIS has been a member of ICCR since 1985 and we believe the organization has been a critical part of our success in engaging companies in our portfolio. Coordinating with faith investors enables us to learn from other members, amplify our message, force companies to take notice and address serious social and environmental challenges.

ICCR has changed the landscape of corporate responsibility by challenging and shifting conventional notions of shareholder advocacy and engagement. By working together, ICCR members are able to impact the policies and practices of not just one or two companies but entire sectors each shareholder season. It is important for the Catholic religious orders, diocese, foundations and healthcare systems that invest with CBIS to see that critical issues like human trafficking, climate change, worker rights, and environmental justice are well represented at ICCR. For these reasons, CBIS has been proud to be represented on ICCR’s governing board at various times throughout its history.
Do you expect that the recent Papal Encyclical, Laudato Si’, will affect the investment needs of your clients, and how might it impact CBIS’s business model in the coming years?

CBIS’ Catholic Responsible Investing approach falls right in line with Laudato Si’ and the words of the Pope. As we noted throughout our web series on Laudato Si’, Pope Francis reminded us all that “our common home” is part of “creation” and has to do with God’s plan “in which every creature has its own value and significance.” CBIS’ ongoing efforts around human dignity, social justice and environmental stewardship attempt to help cover the “social mortgage” that is inherent when corporations seek to do business around the world. We believe that his words encouraged enhanced interest in socially responsible investing, not just around the environment, but also other key issues as “everything is interrelated”.

Does CBIS believe that active ownership is a net “cost”, a “feel good”, or rather, an additive to investment returns?

We think it is an additive to investment returns. Our overall goal is long-term, positive change that improves the lives of communities and individuals, particularly the poor. We believe that this long-term perspective makes companies not only more ethical and responsible but also better investments that are in-line with Church teaching.

When dialoguing with a company and making the business case for taking certain actions, how important is it to find an “ally” within the company to champion the issue, say, the risk of human trafficking within supply chains?

Finding a champion at a company can make all the difference. We always try to find that person at the company who has the knowledge about the motivations of key players and changes within the organization. They can be an invaluable resource to help steer a negotiation to completion. There have been several important and challenging dialogues that CBIS has led that were able to move forward and yield positive results thanks to internal champions at companies like Newmont Mining (community opposition), Wyndham (human trafficking), and JPMorgan Chase (environment).

CBIS has been active on a number of issues, from human trafficking and conflict minerals, to climate change, access to nutrition and board diversity. Is there any one issue that is of utmost importance to CBIS at the moment? And are there any emerging issues that you are exploring?

Of course, all these issues are of importance to us and our participant organizations. We focus our efforts around human dignity, economic justice and environmental stewardship principles, but the specific issues and companies are driven by a variety of metrics such as the size of our holdings, the strategic importance of a company in an industry, its performance, and more. This analysis has us looking at new and ongoing engagements around fossil fuels, pornography, and water management, to name a few.
ICCR is pleased to welcome the following new members to our coalition:

Auburn Theological Seminary
Auburn equips bold and resilient leaders who can bridge religious divides, build community, pursue justice, and heal the world.

Church Impact
Promoting an economy worthy of the kingdom of God.

Glass Lewis
Glass Lewis is the leading independent provider of global governance services, helping institutional investors understand and connect with the companies they invest in.

Healthcare without Harm
Leading the global movement for environmentally responsible healthcare.

Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc.
Enabling the financial community to manage governance risk for the benefit of shareholders.

JLENS Investor Network
Do your investments align with Jewish values and advocate for global social justice, the environment, and support for Israel? Ours do.

NorthStar Asset Management
NorthStar is a leading global asset management firm focused on strategically managing real estate investment platforms in the United States and internationally.

Profit Investment Management
Profit Investments is an investment manager – our products include: Large-Cap, Small-Cap and Socially Responsible portfolios.

RobecoSAM
RobecoSAM is an investment specialist in Sustainability Investing. Sustainability is our DNA: It is our foundation, conviction and purpose.

Shield-Ayres Foundation
The Shield-Ayres Foundation strengthens organizations that effectively meet the basic human needs of the most vulnerable members of our community, provide access to educational opportunity and the arts, advocate for social justice, and promote land and water conservation.

Sonen Capital
We believe that investment capital can help meet large-scale global challenges.

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Design: Heidi Gross
Founded in 1971, ICCR members first gained international attention for their campaign to bring down the oppressive system of apartheid through their collective power as shareowners of corporations with investments in South Africa. Today, with 300 institutional investors as members, ICCR's growing coalition is at the center of the Corporate Social Responsibility Movement they began nearly forty years ago. Actively engaging global corporations on social justice issues that impact the health of our planet and all its inhabitants, we invite you to join us in our mission to build a more just and sustainable world.

As pioneers in socially responsible investing (SRI), ICCR members form coalitions both within the membership and with external allies that work with corporations on a wide range of issues from supply-chain accountability and corporate governance to a host of human rights and environmental concerns. ICCR provides our members with critical resources such as research and staff support, as well as access to our growing membership with which to partner, for more effective corporate engagement. Through shareholder proposals, in corporate dialogues and in participation with other CSR organizations, every day ICCR members are helping to change the conscience of the world's most influential corporations and keep them mindful of the human and environmental costs of doing business.

As we look towards the future, our growing coalition seeks new members who bring with them new visions and fresh ideas. The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility is committed to broadening our membership by actively reaching out to all who support our mission.

In short, ICCR members are inspired by faith and committed to action, as we work together to bridge the divide between morality and markets.

For more information or to become a member of ICCR please contact ICCR's Member Relations Associate Allison Lander at alander@iccr.org or 212-870-2984.