RETURN ADDRESS

 DATE

ORGANIZATION’S Exec Dir, CEO OR BOARD

ORGANIZATION’S ADDRESS

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings! I’m writing to ask you, as the leadership of this organization, to take steps to divest from companies that are involved in the extraction of fossil fuels or the development of new fossil fuel projects. Please also institute a policy against future fossil fuel investment and make a public statement clearly outlining the reasons for these actions. Publicly divesting is a vital contribution to caring for the Earth and its inhabitants, forming part of a broader movement which will encourage others to do the same.

As a dedicated follower of this organization, I’m writing to urge you to review its investment policy, and ensure it aligns with Catholic social teaching on the environment. In Laudato Si’, Pope Francis calls on us to care for creation in all forms of lifestyle, including our investments. Specifically, he calls on us to replace investments in “highly polluting fossil fuels”, the overriding major contributor to climate change. (Laudato Si’ 165). Further, on October 18, 2020, the Vatican asked all Catholics across the globe to divest. (Please see: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-vatican-environment-idUSKBN23P1HI>).

In addition to the moral imperative to divest from fossil fuel companies, there is a practical one. As society collectively switches to renewable energy, fossil fuel companies are becoming risky investments, something increasingly recognized by investment managers. As an example, New York State’s pension fund, one of the world’s largest, has already divested from fossil fuels.

At the same time, investments in the renewable energy sector can both contribute to the healing of our planet and be profitable.

It may be that this institution does not hold any assets related to the fossil fuel industry. Divestment then would mean pledging to avoid any investment in the future.

Thank you for considering this request, and for your dedication. May God guide and keep you always.

Yours in Christ,