RETURN ADDRESS

 DATE

ORGANIZATION’S CEO OR BOARD

ORGANIZATION’S ADDRESS

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings! I’m writing to ask you, as the leadership of this institution, 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 member and customer, I’m advocating for these actions because I strongly believe that continuing to invest in fossil fuels is immoral. This is due to the destruction they cause, and the alternatives that are emerging. In his letter on the environment, the Catholic world’s leader Pope Francis calls on us to care for creation in all forms of lifestyle, including our investments. He calls on us to replace investments in “highly polluting fossil fuels”, the overriding major contributor to climate change. (Laudato Si’, paragraph 165). Further, on October 14, 2021, the Holy Father asked all extractive industries worldwide to “STOP” destroying the world’s natural resources, and poisoning its people. (Please see: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2021/10/16/pope-francis-universal-basic-income-george-floyd-241668> ). I agree with his writings, and so I’m asking you to divest.

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 to our institution.

Very sincerely,