

Apple Shareholder Meeting – Proposal #7
Statement of Justin Danhof, Esq.,
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, and I rise to move proposal #7.

Last spring, our CEO penned an op-ed in the *Washington Post* in which he claimed that religious freedom restoration laws, quote, "allow people to discriminate against their neighbors." He wrote that, quote, "on behalf of Apple, I'm standing up to oppose this new wave of legislation — wherever it emerges."

Mr. Cook was speaking on behalf of this company, and I'm sorry to say he was not telling the truth.

The federal government and 31 states have religious freedom restoration laws. This is all they do. First, they say that the government should not interfere with an individual's religious freedom unless doing so is necessary to reach an important government goal. Second, they say that if the government can reach its important goal in a way that does not abridge religious freedom, it should choose the other method. That's it.

The federal religious freedom restoration law was co-authored by Senator Ted Kennedy and signed into law by President Clinton. Its purpose is to protect religious rights, which are civil rights. The state laws imitate the federal law.

Mr. Cook's op-ed called the Kennedy-Clinton laws "dangerous," comparing them to the days of "whites only" signs on water fountains and other forms of discrimination. Never mind that the laws only require the government to avoid interfering with religious freedom if it can do so while still achieving important government goals – one of which, in every state of the union, is outlawing discrimination.

Mr. Cook said he wrote this op-ed, on Apple's behalf, in "the hopes that many more will join this movement."

Our proposal takes Mr. Cook up on this. Apple operates in 17 nations where homosexuality is outlawed. In four of those countries, homosexual acts are punishable by death. Women have almost no rights in numerous countries in which Apple does business. And try getting a fair trial in many of these nations.

Let us as shareholders of Apple "join this movement," as Mr. Cook said, and question why Apple is operating in nations when doing so requires Apple to discriminate, and to acquiesce in discrimination. Could a woman even drive a shipment of iPhones to

Apple's sales location in Saudi Arabia? Or work in the store without the permission of a male relative?

Our proposal simply asks management to prepare a report identifying Apple's criteria for operating in regions with significant and systemic human rights violations. As Mr. Cook himself wrote, "Opposing discrimination takes courage. With the lives and dignity of so many people at stake, it's time for all of us to be courageous."

Please join me in supporting proposal #7.

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