

Justin Danhof:

Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Justin Danhof, and I am here today representing the National Center for Public Policy Research. We're a D.C.-based free-market think-tank, and a company shareholder. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

Mr. Wasson, Walgreens is a member of the Retail Industry Leaders Association — which goes by RILA. It's one of the country's largest trade organizations. RILA has recently launched a massive sustainability campaign that lobbies for and mandates — among other things — reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the environmental footprint of consumer products and sustainability labeling for consumer products.

As a shareholder, our primary concern is that this push for so-called “sustainability” will harm Walgreens' smaller suppliers, the consumers, and us the shareholders, as we are gonna bear the cost of this self-imposed green regulation.

Mr. Wasson, my organization has commissioned a national poll of all American consumers. It is going on today, literally as I am speaking with you. We are asking consumers how much more they'd be willing to pay for common retail products so they can be labeled — quote — sustainable.

So, Mr. Wasson, let me pose this question to you. Consider a hypothetical shopping cart containing a hundred dollars worth of commonly purchased retail items. How much more would *you* personally be willing to pay if all of those products were labeled as “sustainable?” And, after that, do you think it is fair to charge low and middle-income Americans — many of whom are on very tight budgets and just lost a bunch in the so-called fiscal cliff deal — to pay more for company products because Walgreens and other retailers want to greenwash their images?

Thank you, and I look forward to your comments. And we'll get you the poll results as they come in.

Greg Wasson:

Thank you for your comments. Certainly, I am a member of RILA, as you said.

You know, I do think that RILA is working to try to drive value-added corporate social responsibility in sustainability. I do think that — at the same time — your, your, one of your comments, that we do also work with the local community — the local establishments — that we think we can really play a big part as far... part of our strategy to drive our corporate sustainability and social responsibility as well.

So, I guess I would say — in some cases — I don't... I wouldn't agree that the small business and small... ah... employers are going to be left out of this. I think there's actually opportunity.

Um... as... as far as... ah... as far as what the cost may be... certainly, we think there's opportunity to drive sustainability... corporate social responsibility without driving costs up.

So...

Acknowledge your comments. Appreciate your comments. And thank you very much.