

Eli Lilly Shareholder Meeting
Statement in Opposition of Proposal #6
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
The National Center for Public Policy Research, May 1, 2017

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research. We encourage Eli Lilly's shareholders to reject proposal number six filed by the Comptroller of the State of New York.

The New York Comptroller is part of a network of liberal organizations attempting to use American corporations to silence speech and defund advocates of free enterprise. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United* decision, this network has filed hundreds of resolutions complaining about an alleged lack of transparency and accountability in corporate lobbying and political activity. However, such groups never express concern about the billions of corporate dollars that go to fund liberal causes and politicians. Herein lies the hypocrisy of its proposal. This liberal network abhors corporate speech when it is perceived to skew to the political right. It remains silent when speech supports leftist causes it favors.

Today, the New York Comptroller is attempting to conscript Lilly's shareholders into its efforts to defund and silence the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), groups that seek to improve America's business environment.

The proponent claims that Lilly's relationship with ALEC and the Chamber of Commerce will expose the company to reputational risk. Considering that the proponent and its allies regularly smear the pro-business positions promoted by ALEC and the Chamber, this a circular argument with no basis in fact. The Chamber and ALEC seek to promote a fair economic environment devoid of excessive government regulation and onerous corporate taxation. Such an environment would help, not harm, Eli Lilly.

Proposal six holds no relevance for Lilly or its investors. The proponent is simply trying to use us to censor those that it cannot otherwise censor because our Constitution protects free speech. Don't let this liberal network silence free speech by dictating Lilly's business relationships. Please vote no on proposal number six.

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