

McDonald's Shareholder Meeting, Proposal #9
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research, and I rise to move proposal #9 on behalf of my colleague Amy Ridenour, the proponent of this pro-business resolution.

For too long now, much of corporate America has bent to the will of the political left without pushback. Consider our proposal today to be that pushback.

Our proposal is very simple. It asks the company to explain its support for individuals and organizations that fight for policies that ultimately would tax and regulate McDonald's out of existence. If and when McDonald's joins anti-free enterprise causes in the future, our proposal merely asks the company to tell us shareholders why.

At last year's shareholder meeting, the company crowed about artificially increasing the minimum wage for some of its workers. Well the barbarians are back at your gate demanding more – they did not see your concession as a victory for workers – they saw it as a sign of weakness which they can exploit. With less economic understanding than the Socialist Senator from Vermont, they demand wage increases that would shutter most McDonald's locations. You should be screaming this from the rooftops, not relying on pro-free enterprise groups to do it for you.

But there's the rub because when radical liberal activists spread lies about the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a well-regarded 40-year-old organization that McDonald's joined because it works to reduce our taxes and to ease the regulatory burden upon our operations, McDonald's was one of the first organizations in the country to cave in and withdraw its membership. Are there any shareholders here – please, if there are, stand up and be counted – who think McDonald's is better off if corporate taxes are higher and government places more and more regulations upon the company?

McDonald's management has given clout to left-wing groups that want to tear down the free enterprise system that has allowed the company to thrive and grow through generations. If McDonald's wants to shun free enterprise groups and continue down this path, a path that ultimately could kill this company, it should at least tell us shareholders why.

Contact: Judy Kent at (703) 759-7476 or cell (703) 477-7476 or jkent@nationalcenter.org

*National Center for Public Policy Research
20 F Street, NW
Suite 700*

Washington, DC 20001

www.nationalcenter.org • www.conservativeblog.org • [@NationalCenter](https://twitter.com/NationalCenter)