

**Amazon Shareholder Meeting - Proposal #12 Statement**  
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**National Center for Public Policy Research, May 27, 2020**

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research and I move Proposal #12, which questions Amazon's reliance on the discredited Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as the gatekeeper of the AmazonSmile charitable program.

The SPLC is a bigoted, racist, and sexist organization whose leadership abused its staff for decades. Yet Amazon allows the SPLC to pick and choose which charities are eligible for the Smile program. Why? The extreme leftists at the SPLC use this power to exclude groups that it disagrees with ideologically, while it, in turn, reaps tremendous windfall from the Smile program.

We suggest the IRS investigate this corrupt arrangement and clear conflict of interest. In the meantime, shareholders should demand that Amazon end this scheme.

The SPLC is known mostly for publishing an annual "hate map," listing America's supposed hate groups. This cynical yearly exercise is little more than a public listing of SPLC's political enemies. How else can one explain SPLC categorizing groups such as Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) with the Ku Klux Klan? ADF is the nation's preeminent legal advocate for religious liberty and has scored 10 victories at the United States Supreme Court since 2011. Everyone knows the Klan is a hate group. What the SPLC is trying to do is convince naïve Americans that conservative and religious organizations are morally equivalent to the KKK.

In 2014, the FBI [removed](#) the SPLC as a source, citing "a number of concerns." And last year, even the far-left leadership of Twitter [dumped](#) the SPLC from its "Trust and Safety Council" after many of the group's scandals were exposed. Some of those racist and sexist SPLC scandals were even exposed by Mr. Bezos' own radically liberal newspaper the *Washington Post*, which ran headlines such as "[The Southern Poverty Law Center has Lost All Credibility](#)," and "Something Strange is going on at this Civil Rights Institution. It Must be Investigated," which called for a federal probe into the SPLC.

Last year, a former SPLC staffer [wrote](#) in the *New Yorker* that SPLC co-founder Morris Dees "viewed civil-rights work mainly as a marketing tool for bilking gullible Northern liberals."

Amazon's leadership may be that gullible, but let's show them that we investors are not. Please join me in voting in favor of Proposal #12.

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