



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jody Lowe

+1 414 322-9311

ussif@lowecom.com

Four investor networks submit joint letter to House Financial Services Committee in support of sustainable investing

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 12, 2023 – US SIF: The Sustainable Investment Forum, Ceres, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), and the US Impact Investing Alliance (with combined investor membership totaling approximately 250 organizations with more than \$60 trillion in AUM) today sent a [joint letter](#) to the Members of the House Financial Services (HFS) Committee in advance of “House ESG Month.” The July 12th hearing on “Protecting Investor Interests: Examining Environmental and Social Policy in Financial Regulation” kicks off a series of six hearings over the course of July and will culminate with votes on a number of bills.

The letter demonstrates that sustainable investing is a mainstream investing practice and highlights that hard-working Americans are increasingly [aligning their investments with critical ESG criteria](#) to minimize long-term risks to their investments and [maximize returns](#).¹

“By attempting to limit the use of ESG in investing, politicians are inappropriately interfering with investors’ fiduciary duty to evaluate risk and act in the best interest of individual and institutional investors,” said Maria Lettini, CEO of US SIF. “Sustainable investing and ESG help to unlock value, differentiate leaders from laggards, and ensure more resilient capital markets. The US SIF Foundation identified \$8.4 trillion in total US assets under management (AUM) using sustainable investing strategies at the end of 2021.”

“Considering the financial impacts of climate change and other sustainability issues in decision-making is key to fiduciary duty. We believe it is the only way to ensure long-term shareholder value and the highest risk adjusted long-term returns for pensioners,” said Steven Rothstein, Managing Director of the Ceres Accelerator for Sustainable Capital Markets at Ceres. “It is why hundreds of private and public sectors are urging Congress to protect the freedom to invest responsibly. Investors and companies should be free to invest the way they choose.”

¹ www.morganstanley.com/assets/pdfs/2021-Sustainable_Signals_Individual_Investor.pdf and <https://www.morningstar.com/sustainable-investing/esg-investing-keeps-pace-with-conventional-investing-2022>

“ESG criteria has been used in sustainable investing for decades as a crucial investment framework used to mitigate risks, including long-term and systemic risks,” said Josh Zinner, CEO of ICCR. “It is ironic for proponents of anti-ESG policies to claim that ESG politicizes investing, when the clear reality is that they are the ones playing politics with the money of pensioners and taxpayers.”

“Investors should remain free to make data-driven decisions without political interference,” said Fran Seegull, President, U.S. Impact Investing Alliance. “America’s competitiveness on the global stage is in large part thanks to our capital markets system, which protects investors’ freedom to invest according to whichever strategy best suits their investment objectives. Political interference with investor freedoms threatens workers, communities and the entire economy.”

To read the full letter, [click here](#).

About US SIF and the US SIF Foundation

US SIF: Sustainable Investment Forum is the leading voice advancing sustainable investing across all asset classes. Its mission is to rapidly shift investment practices toward sustainability-aligned goals with the aim of achieving long-term investment goals and preserving our planet and society. US SIF members include investment management and advisory firms, mutual fund companies, asset owners, data and research firms, financial planners and advisors, broker-dealers, banks, credit unions, community development financial institutions and non-profit associations.

US SIF is supported in its work by the **US SIF Foundation**, a 501(C)(3) organization that undertakes educational and research activities to advance the mission of US SIF, including offering trainings for advisors and other financial professionals on the [Fundamentals of Sustainable and Impact Investment](#).

###