

## Climate Lobbying Report

Shareholders request that the Board of Directors conduct an evaluation and issue a report within the next year (at reasonable cost, omitting proprietary information) describing if, and how, United Airlines' lobbying activities (direct and through trade associations and social welfare and nonprofit organizations) align with the Paris Climate Agreement's goal of limiting average global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and how the company plans to mitigate risks presented by any misalignment.

### Supporting Statement

According to the most recent annual "Emissions Gap Report"<sup>1</sup> issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (November 26, 2019), critical gaps remain between the commitments national governments have made and the actions required to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Companies have an important and constructive role to play in enabling policymakers to close these gaps.

Corporate lobbying activities that are inconsistent with meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement present regulatory, reputational and legal risks to investors. These efforts also present systemic risks to our economies, as delays in implementation of the Paris Agreement increase the physical risks of climate change, pose a systemic risk to economic stability and introduce uncertainty and volatility into our portfolios. We believe that Paris-aligned climate lobbying helps to mitigate these risks, and contributes positively to the long-term value of our investment portfolios.

Of particular concern are the trade associations and other politically active organizations that speak for business but, unfortunately, too often present forceful obstacles to progress in addressing the climate crisis.

As investors, we view fulfillment of the Paris Agreement's agreed goal—to hold the increase in the global average temperature to "well below" 2°C above preindustrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C— as an imperative. We are convinced that unabated climate change will have a devastating impact on our clients, plan beneficiaries, and the value of their portfolios. We see future "business as usual" scenarios of 3-4°C or greater as both unacceptable and uninvestable.

We commend United Airlines for responding to CDP's annual climate change survey, including information on the company's direct (in the company's name) and indirect (through trade associations and other organizations) lobbying efforts related to climate change and their consistency with corporate policy. Two hundred institutional investors managing \$6.5 trillion wrote to United Airlines in 2019, seeking an answer to a different question: How does United Airlines work to ensure that its direct and indirect lobbying activities align with the Paris Agreement's goals, and what does the company do to address any misalignments it has found? The investors received no response. United also did not respond to an October 2020 follow-up letter.

Thus, we urge the Board and management to assess the company's climate related lobbying and report to shareholders.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>