



JESUITS®

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Greetings and thanks for your interest in the Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility (JCIR)!

Shareholder advocacy is an important way that the Jesuits in Canada and the United States live out the call to promote justice in our world today. Through nearly 40 years of engaging companies in dialogue as shareholders, JCIR and our partners at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility have demonstrated that committed advocacy with select companies can lead to significant improvements in human rights standards and environmental sustainability.

I am proud that JCIR is a longstanding shared work of the Jesuits throughout Canada and the United States, in which we collaborate with Jesuits and lay colleagues here and around the world. Given the reality of economic globalization, the impact of corporate activity on local communities knows no borders. The activities of a mining company based in Canada, for example, can threaten land rights, safety and the health of community members in other parts of the world. The Society of Jesus has from its inception been a global enterprise, which situates us well to engage in advocacy with multinational corporations. Through our dialogues with Aura Minerals and Barrick Gold, for instance, we are able to present the concerns of Jesuits and lay colleagues in Central America and the Caribbean to senior corporate executives and boards of directors.

The human rights policies that we have helped companies shape through corporate shareholder advocacy give us a foundation to then hold the actions of those companies to higher standards, improving the lives of the many people affected. JCIR engagements with companies on environmental issues like carbon emissions and water sustainability have the capacity to benefit everyone, from the local farmer who has better access to irrigation sources because of improved water management, to the company whose reputation is bolstered for being a good steward, to the investor who sees stable financial returns because of better risk and reputational management.

Ultimately, JCIR believes that socially responsible investing is an important companion to the endowment investments we use to sustain Jesuit provinces and institutions. Our faith demands nothing less of us: that our investments do justice while they provide a financial return to carry on our work. I hope you'll consider joining us.

Sincerely,

Ted Penton, S.J.
Secretary
Office of Justice and Ecology
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States