

Request for Board of Directors to Adopt Policy for an Independent Chair

RESOLVED:

Shareholders request the Board of Directors adopt as policy, and amend the bylaws as necessary, to require hereafter that the Chair of the Board of Directors be an independent member of the Board, consistent with applicable law and existing contracts. If the Board determines that a Chair who was independent when selected is no longer independent, the Board shall select a new Chair who satisfies the requirements of the policy within a reasonable amount of time.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

The Chief Executive Officer of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., is also Board Chairman. We believe these roles – each with separate, different responsibilities that are critical to the health of a successful corporation – are greatly diminished when held by a singular company official, thus weakening its governance structure.

Expert perspectives substantiate our position:

- According to the Council of Institutional Investors (<https://bit.ly/3pKrtJK>), “A CEO who also serves as chair can exert excessive influence on the board and its agenda, weakening the board’s oversight of management. Separating the chair and CEO positions reduces this conflict, and an independent chair provides the clearest separation of power between the CEO and the rest of the board.”
- A 2014 report from Deloitte (<https://bit.ly/3vQGqe1>) concluded, “The chairman should lead the board and there should be a clear division of responsibilities between the chairman and the chief executive officer (CEO).”
- Proxy adviser Glass Lewis advised (<https://bit.ly/2ZD4159>) in 2016, “an independent chairman...is better able to oversee the executives of the Company and set a pro-shareholder agenda without the management conflicts that exist when a CEO or other executive also serves as chairman.”