

Suggested Talking Points for Public Comment on the Final SRIC Report

10-7-16

1. Thank the Socially Responsible Investments Committee for recommending the addition of all recommended companies to the City's Do-Not-Buy list because they have violated the City's Socially Responsible Investments policy.

2. The Socially Responsible Investments Committee found that Caterpillar violated the following six of the city's seven criteria for judging whether a company has violated its policy: Impacts on human rights, health concerns (including weapons production), corrupt corporate ethics and governance, extreme tax avoidance, environmental concerns, and abusive labor practices.

3. Caterpillar is responsible for how its products are used. Under the United Nations Guidelines for Business and Human Rights, a company is obligated to practice "due diligence" to ensure that its products or services are not used to violate international laws and human rights. Caterpillar D9 bulldozers are sold to Israel specifically for use as weapons. They are sold under the US Arm Export Act. According to the Israeli human rights group, *Who Profits?*, Caterpillar's subsidiary in Israel retrofits Caterpillar equipment for military use.

4. Caterpillar is well aware that its products are used in human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine. In 2004, the international human rights group, *Human Rights Watch* called on Caterpillar to cease selling bulldozers to Israel through the U.S. military sales program due to the use of the D9 bulldozerto build illegal settlements and for use as a weapon and an instrument of collective punishment. For more than a decade, many organizations have attempted to engage Caterpillar to no avail and have thus passed Caterpillar divestment resolutions. This includes the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, Evangelical Lutherans, the Quakers and others.

5. The City of Portland has placed 200 fossil fuel companies on its Do-Not-Buy list for contributing to global warming. Yet Caterpillar, Inc., is a major player in the oil and gas industry, providing drilling rigs for both onshore and offshore drilling. Caterpillar's practices include: sale of powerful portable generators used for hydraulic fracking in Montana and North Dakota to extract dangerous shale oil which is then shipped by rail through the Portland metropolitan area and along the Columbia River. It's only logical to divest from companies that extract fossil fuels.

6. The City of Portland passed a resolution condemning the Dakota Access Pipeline for endangering the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota. Caterpillar is the largest recipient of a \$200-million contract to build the pipeline, providing 250 earth excavators to the project. A Caterpillar bulldozer was used to raze sacred burial ground on land claimed by the Sioux, violating their treaty rights. Portland should back its words with action and place Caterpillar on its Do-Not-Buy list.

7. Our tax dollars should not be invested in companies that violate the City's Socially Responsible Investment Policy. We want to send a message that hopefully will change Caterpillar's behavior, and many other American cities are also being asked to do the same. This is not a foreign policy issue but a matter of how our tax dollars are spent.

8. Caterpillar is not just involved in human rights violations in Israel/Palestine. It is also involved in projects that violate the human rights of indigenous people in Guatemala, Honduras, and North Dakota.

9. In 2003, A Caterpillar D9 bulldozer ran over and killed American citizen Rachel Corrie when she was nonviolently protesting to stop the demolition of a Palestinian home in Gaza. At least five Palestinian families have also seen loved ones killed by Caterpillar bulldozers.

For more information and sources, see our detailed [Caterpillar Report](http://occupationfreepdx.org/resources) on our resources page: <http://occupationfreepdx.org/resources>