

## Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System

DATE: February 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Modifications to the U.S. and Non-U.S. Proxy Voting Policies

TO: Members of the Corporate Governance Committee

FROM: Robert E. Little, CPA  
Portfolio Manager

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At the March 11, 2010, Corporate Governance Committee meeting, we will ask the Committee to adopt the U.S. Proxy Voting Policy and the Non-U.S. Proxy Voting Policy. These policies adopt the standard Glass, Lewis & Co., Inc. (Glass Lewis) U.S. and International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines.

For your reference, I have attached black-lined versions of the following documents:

- the U.S. Proxy Voting Policy;
- the Glass Lewis U.S. Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines;
- the Non-U.S. Proxy Voting Policy; and,
- the Glass Lewis International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines.

Significant changes to the Glass Lewis U.S. Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines are as follows:

- In most instances, rather than recommend a vote against the compensation committee, they will only recommend a vote against the say-on-pay proposal; and,
- In regards to the election of directors, they will recommend a vote for cumulative voting proposals unless the company already has majority voting in place.

The only significant change to the Glass Lewis International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines is as follows:

- In some countries, companies elect board members as a slate rather than as individual directors. If significant issues exist concerning one or more directors, they will recommend a vote against the entire slate of directors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 717-720-4707.

*U.S. Proxy Voting Policy*

*of*

*the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*  
*Public School Employees' Retirement Board*

As adopted by  
the Board of Trustees  
on September 17, 1993

Effective  
September 17, 1993

Adopted: September 17, 1993

Revised: March 11, 2010

Date Last Reviewed by Chief Investment Officer: March 11, 2010

Deleted: March 13, 2009

Deleted: March 13, 2009

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
U.S. PROXY VOTING POLICY

GENERAL

The voting policies approved by this Board ("Approved Policies") apply to all U.S. proxies that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) is entitled to vote. PSERS shall cast a vote FOR or AGAINST or register an ABSTENTION in all such proxies.

In voting proxies, PSERS shall consider the factors affecting the value of the investment and vote in the manner that, in its view, best serves the economic interest of PSERS' beneficiaries. Consistent with this objective, PSERS will normally vote in accordance with the Approved Policies.

Recognizing that PSERS' Proxy Voting Agent, Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC (Glass Lewis), performs the underlying research and formulates original proxy voting policies for its clients, this Board hereby adopts the Glass Lewis U.S. Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines, except for the voting guidelines adopted below. The Glass Lewis U.S. Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines may be amended or expanded from time to time without further action by this Board, unless a policy change is considered by the Investment Office not to best serve the economic interest of PSERS' beneficiaries. This Board possesses the authority and reserves the right (i) to modify any voting policy in such manner it deems appropriate at any time, and (ii) to direct Glass Lewis to change any recommendation under this Policy in such manner as the Board deems appropriate.

In evaluating and voting proxies, PSERS shall pay special attention to companies that are headquartered, incorporated, or have significant contact in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to ensure that the best interests of the Commonwealth and PSERS' beneficiaries who live and work in the Commonwealth are taken into account. A determination of "best interests" may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, consideration of the economic stability of a community or region within Pennsylvania and the effect of the policy to be voted upon on the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund.

The following are the Board-approved voting guidelines that override the standard Glass Lewis U.S. Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines related to these issues:

REINCORPORATION PROPOSALS

PSERS will generally vote FOR reincorporation proposals that are likely to increase shareholder value and /or promote and protect shareholder rights; otherwise, PSERS will generally vote against reincorporation proposals.

PSERS will vote FOR all reincorporation proposals to reincorporate in Pennsylvania.

PSERS will vote AGAINST all reincorporation proposals to reincorporate Pennsylvania companies outside of Pennsylvania.

## SHAREHOLDER INITIATIVES

*This section replaces the standard guidelines used by Glass Lewis in voting shareholder initiatives as listed in the Glass Lewis Domestic Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines.*

### NORTHERN IRELAND RESOLUTIONS

PSERS will vote FOR resolutions pertaining to Northern Ireland that advocate adoption of the affirmative action measures set forth in 24 Pa. C.S. §8527(b), including adopting or reporting on MacBride Principles.

*The MacBride principles are a set of nine equal opportunity/affirmative action principles aimed at fighting religious discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland.*

### LABOR PRACTICES

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

#### MILITARY AND US GOVERNMENT BUSINESS POLICIES

#### FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS POLICIES

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

PSERS will generally ABSTAIN from voting on proposals dealing with such issues in instances in which the best economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries will not be affected positively or negatively by the determination of such an issue. In situations in which the proposal is likely to enhance the economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries, PSERS will generally vote FOR the proposal. Conversely, in situations in which the proposal is likely to be detrimental to the economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries, PSERS will generally vote AGAINST the proposal.

*PSERS may consider the following in analyzing shareholder initiatives:*

- *whether adoption of the proposal would have either a positive or negative impact on the company's short-term or long-term share value;*
- *the percentage of sales, assets, and earnings affected;*
- *the degree to which the company's stated position on issues raised in the proposal could affect its reputation or sales, or leave it vulnerable to boycott or selective purchasing;*
- *whether the issues presented should be dealt with through government action or through company-specific action;*
- *whether the company has already responded in some appropriate manner to the request embodied in the proposal;*
- *whether the company's analysis and voting recommendation to shareholders is persuasive;*
- *what other companies have done in response to the issue;*



**U.S.  
PROXY PAPER POLICY GUIDELINES**

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLASS LEWIS APPROACH TO  
PROXY ADVICE FOR U.S. COMPANIES**

## **I. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

### Board of Directors

Boards are put in place to represent shareholders and protect their interests. Glass Lewis seeks boards with a proven record of protecting shareholders and delivering value over the medium- and long-term. We believe that boards working to protect and enhance the best interests of shareholders are independent, have directors with diverse backgrounds, have a record of positive performance, and have members with a breadth and depth of experience.

### *Board Composition*

We look at each individual on the board and examine his or her relationships with the company, the company's executives and with other board members. The purpose of this inquiry is to determine whether pre-existing personal, familial or financial relationships are likely to impact the decisions of that board member.

We vote in favor of governance structures that will drive positive performance and enhance shareholder value. The most crucial test of a board's commitment to the company and to its shareholders is the performance of the board and its members. The performance of directors in their capacity as board members and as executives of the company, when applicable, and in their roles at other companies where they serve is critical to this evaluation.

We believe a director is independent if he or she has no material financial, familial or other current relationships with the company, its executives or other board members except for service on the board and standard fees paid for that service. Relationships that have existed within the five years prior to the inquiry are usually considered to be "current" for purposes of this test.

In our view, a director is affiliated if he or she has a material financial, familial or other relationship with the company or its executives, but is not an employee of the company. This includes directors whose employers have a material financial relationship with the Company. This also includes a director who owns or controls 25% or more of the company's voting stock.

We define an inside director as one who simultaneously serves as a director and as an employee of the company. This category may include a chairman of the board who acts as an employee of the company or is paid as an employee of the company.

Although we typically vote for the election of directors, we will recommend voting against directors (or withholding where applicable, here and following) for the following reasons:

- A director who attends less than 75% of the board and applicable committee meetings.
- A director who fails to file timely form(s) 4 or 5 (assessed on a case-by-case basis).
- A director who is also the CEO of a company where a serious restatement has occurred after the CEO certified the pre-restatement financial statements.
- All board members who served at a time when a poison pill was adopted without shareholder approval within the prior twelve months.

We also feel that the following conflicts of interest may hinder a director's performance and will therefore recommend voting against a:

- CFO who presently sits on the board.
- Director who presently sits on an excessive number of boards.
- Director, or a director whose immediate family member, provides material professional services to the company at any time during the past five years.
- Director, or a director whose immediate family member, engages in airplane, real estate or other similar deals, including perquisite type grants from the company.
- Director with an interlocking directorship.

#### *Board Committee Composition*

All key committees including audit, compensation, governance, and nominating committees should be composed solely of independent directors and each committee should be focused on fulfilling its specific duty to shareholders. We typically recommend that shareholders vote against any affiliated or inside director seeking appointment to an audit, compensation, nominating or governance committee or who has served in that capacity in the past year.

#### *Review of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis Report*

We review the CD&A in our evaluation of the overall compensation practices of a company, as overseen by the compensation committee. In our evaluation of the CD&A, we examine, among other factors, the extent to which the company has used performance goals in determining overall compensation, how well the company has disclosed

performance metrics and goals and the extent to which the performance metrics, targets and goals are implemented to enhance company performance. We would recommend voting against the chair of the compensation committee where the CD&A provides insufficient or unclear information about performance metrics and goals, where the CD&A indicates that pay is not tied to performance, or where the compensation committee or management has excessive discretion to alter performance terms or increase amounts of awards in contravention of previously defined targets. However, if a company provides shareholders with an advisory vote on compensation, we will recommend that shareholders only vote against the advisory compensation vote proposal unless the compensation practices are particularly egregious or persistent.

### *Review of Risk Management Controls*

We believe companies, particularly financial firms, should have a dedicated risk committee, or a committee of the board charged with risk oversight, as well as a chief risk officer who reports directly to that committee, not to the CEO or another executive. In cases where a company has disclosed a sizable loss or writedown, and where a reasonable analysis indicates that the company's board-level risk committee should be held accountable for poor oversight, we would recommend that shareholders vote against such committee members on that basis. In addition, in cases where a company maintains a significant level of financial risk exposure but fails to disclose any explicit form of board-level risk oversight (committee or otherwise), we will consider recommending to vote against the chairman of the board on that basis.

### Separation of the roles of Chairman and CEO

Glass Lewis believes that separating the roles of corporate officers and the chairman of the board is a better governance structure than a combined executive/chairman position. The role of executives is to manage the business on the basis of the course charted by the board. Executives should be in the position of reporting and answering to the board for their performance in achieving the goals set out by such board. This becomes much more complicated when management actually sits on, or chairs, the board.

We view an independent chairman as better able to oversee the executives of the company and set a pro-shareholder agenda without the management conflicts that a CEO and other executive insiders often face. This, in turn, leads to a more proactive and effective board of directors that is looking out for the interests of shareholders above all else.

We do not recommend voting against CEOs who serve on or chair the board. However, we do support a separation between the roles of chairman of the board and CEO, whenever that question is posed in a proxy.

In the absence of an independent chairman, we support the appointment of a presiding or lead director with authority to set the agenda for the meetings and to lead sessions outside the presence of the insider chairman.

#### Majority Voting for the Election of Directors

Glass Lewis will generally support proposals calling for the election of directors by a majority vote in place of plurality voting. If a majority vote standard were implemented, a nominee would have to receive the support of a majority of the shares voted in order to assume the role of a director. Thus, shareholders could collectively vote to reject a director they believe will not pursue their best interests. We think that this minimal amount of protection for shareholders is reasonable and will not upset the corporate structure nor reduce the willingness of qualified shareholder-focused directors to serve in the future.

#### Classified Boards

Glass Lewis favors the repeal of staggered boards in favor of the annual election of directors. We believe that staggered boards are less accountable to shareholders than annually elected boards. Furthermore, we feel that the annual election of directors encourages board members to focus on protecting the interests of shareholders.

#### Mutual Fund Boards

Mutual funds, or investment companies, are structured differently than regular public companies (i.e., operating companies). Members of the fund's adviser are typically on the board and management takes on a different role than that of other public companies. As such, although many of our guidelines remain the same, the following differences from the guidelines at operating companies apply at mutual funds:

1. We believe three-fourths of the boards of investment companies should be made up of independent directors, a stricter standard than the two-thirds independence standard we employ at operating companies.
2. We recommend withholding votes from the chairman of the nominating committee at an investment company if the chairman and CEO of a mutual fund are the same person and the fund does not have an independent lead or presiding director.

## **II. FINANCIAL REPORTING**

#### Auditor Ratification

We believe that role of the auditor is crucial in protecting shareholder value. In our view, shareholders should demand the services of objective and well-qualified auditors at every company in which they hold an interest. Like directors, auditors should be free from conflicts of interest and should assiduously avoid situations that require them to make choices between their own interests and the interests of the shareholders.

Glass Lewis generally supports management's recommendation regarding the selection of an auditor. However, we recommend voting against the ratification of auditors for the following reasons:

- When audit fees added to audit-related fees total less than one-third of total fees.
- When there have been any recent restatements or late filings by the company where the auditor bears some responsibility for the restatement or late filing (e.g., a restatement due to a reporting error).
- When the company has aggressive accounting policies.
- When the company has poor disclosure or lack of transparency in financial statements.
- When there are other relationships or issues of concern with the auditor that might suggest a conflict between the interest of the auditor and the interests of shareholders.
- When the company is changing auditors as a result of a disagreement between the company and the auditor on a matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedures.

#### Auditor Rotation

We typically support audit related proposals regarding mandatory auditor rotation when the proposal uses a reasonable period of time (usually not less than 5-7 years).

#### Pension Accounting Issues

Proxy proposals sometimes raise the question as to whether pension accounting should have an effect on the company's net income and therefore be reflected in the performance of the business for purposes of calculating payments to executives. It is our view that pension credits should not be included in measuring income used to award performance-based compensation. Many of the assumptions used in accounting for retirement plans are subject to the discretion of a company, and management would have an obvious conflict of interest if pay were tied to pension income.

### **III. COMPENSATION**

## Equity Based Compensation Plans

Glass Lewis evaluates option and other equity-based compensation on a case-by-case basis. We believe that equity compensation awards are a useful tool, when not abused, for retaining and incentivizing employees to engage in conduct that will improve the performance of the company.

We evaluate option plans based on ten overarching principles:

- Companies should seek additional shares only when needed.
- The number of shares requested should be small enough that companies need shareholder approval every three to four years (or more frequently).
- If a plan is relatively expensive, it should not be granting options solely to senior executives and board members.
- Annual net share count and voting power dilution should be limited.
- Annual cost of the plan (especially if not shown on the income statement) should be reasonable as a percentage of financial results and in line with the peer group.
- The expected annual cost of the plan should be proportional to the value of the business.
- The intrinsic value received by option grantees in the past should be reasonable compared with the financial results of the business.
- Plans should deliver value on a per-employee basis when compared with programs at peer companies.
- Plans should not permit re-pricing of stock options.

## Option Exchanges

Option exchanges are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, although they are approached with great skepticism. Repricing is tantamount to a re-trade. We will support a repricing only if the following conditions are true:

- Officers and board members do not participate in the program.
- The stock decline mirrors the market or industry price decline in terms of timing and approximates the decline in magnitude.
- The exchange is value neutral or value creative to shareholders with very conservative assumptions and a recognition of the adverse selection problems inherent in voluntary programs.
- Management and the board make a cogent case for needing to incentivize and retain existing employees, such as being in a competitive employment market.

### Performance Based Options

We generally recommend that shareholders vote in favor of performance-based option requirements. We feel that executives should be compensated with equity when their performance and that of the company warrants such rewards. We believe that boards can develop a consistent, reliable approach, as boards of many companies have, that would attract executives who believe in their ability to guide the company to achieve its targets.

### Linking Pay with Performance

Executive compensation should be linked directly with the performance of the business the executive is charged with managing. Glass Lewis grades companies on an A to F scale based on our analysis of executive compensation relative to performance and that of the company's peers and will recommend voting against the election of compensation committee members at companies that receive a grade of F.

### Director Compensation Plans

Non-employee directors should receive compensation for the time and effort they spend serving on the board and its committees. In particular, we support compensation plans that include equity-based awards, which help to align the interests of outside directors with those of shareholders. Director fees should be competitive in order to retain and attract qualified individuals.

### Advisory Votes on Compensation

We closely review companies' compensation practices and disclosure as outlined in their CD&As and other company filings to evaluate management-submitted advisory compensation vote proposals. In evaluating these non-binding proposals, we examine how well the company has disclosed information pertinent to its compensation programs, the extent to which overall compensation is tied to performance, the performance metrics selected by the company and the levels of compensation in comparison to company performance and that of its peers. Glass Lewis will generally recommend voting in favor of shareholder proposals to allow shareholders an advisory vote on compensation.

### Limits on Executive Compensation

Proposals to limit executive compensation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. As a general rule, we believe that executive compensation should be left to the board's compensation committee. We view the election of directors, and specifically those who sit on the compensation committee, as the appropriate mechanism for shareholders to express their disapproval or support of board policy on this issue.

### Limits on Executive Stock Options

We favor the grant of options to executives. Options are a very important component of compensation packages designed to attract and retain experienced executives and other key employees. Tying a portion of an executive's compensation to the performance of the company also provides an excellent incentive to maximize share values by those in the best position to affect those values. Accordingly, we typically vote against caps on executive stock options.

## **IV. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### Anti-Takeover Measures

#### *Poison Pills (Shareholder Rights Plans)*

Glass Lewis believes that poison pill plans generally are not in the best interests of shareholders. Specifically, they can reduce management accountability by substantially limiting opportunities for corporate takeovers. Rights plans can thus prevent shareholders from receiving a buy-out premium for their stock.

We believe that boards should be given wide latitude in directing the activities of the company and charting the company's course. However, on an issue such as this where the link between the financial interests of shareholders and their right to consider and accept buyout offers is so substantial, we believe that shareholders should be allowed to vote on whether or not they support such a plan's implementation.

In certain limited circumstances, we will support a limited poison pill to accomplish a particular objective, such as the closing of an important merger, or a pill that contains what we believe to be a reasonable 'qualifying offer' clause.

#### *Right of Shareholders to Call a Special Meeting*

We will vote in favor of proposals that allow shareholders to call special meetings. In order to prevent abuse and waste of corporate resources by a very small minority of

shareholders, we believe that such rights should be limited to a minimum threshold of at least 15% of the shareholders requesting such a meeting.

#### *Shareholder Action by Written Consent*

We will vote in favor of proposals that allow shareholders to act by written consent. In order to prevent abuse and waste of corporate resources by a very small minority of shareholders, we believe that such rights should be limited to a minimum threshold of at least 15% of the shareholders requesting action by written consent.

#### Authorized Shares

Proposals to increase the number of authorized shares will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Adequate capital stock is important to the operation of a company. When analyzing a request for additional shares, we typically review four common reasons why a company might need additional capital stock beyond what is currently available:

1. Stock split
2. Shareholder defenses
3. Financing for acquisitions
4. Financing for operations

Unless we find that the company has not disclosed a detailed plan for use of the proposed shares, or where the number of shares far exceeds those needed to accomplish a detailed plan, we typically recommend in favor of the authorization of additional shares.

#### Voting Structure

##### *Cumulative Voting*

Glass Lewis will vote for proposals seeking to allow cumulative voting unless the company has majority voting for the election of directors in which case we will vote against. Cumulative voting is a voting process that maximizes the ability of minority shareholders to ensure representation of their views on the board. Cumulative voting generally operates as a safeguard for by ensuring that those who hold a significant minority of shares are able to elect a candidate of their choosing to the board.

##### *Supermajority Vote Requirements*

Glass Lewis favors a simple majority voting structure. Supermajority vote requirements act as impediments to shareholder action on ballot items that are critical to our interests. One key example is in the takeover context where supermajority vote requirements can strongly limit shareholders' input in making decisions on such crucial matters as selling

the business.

### Shareholder Proposals

Shareholder proposals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. We generally favor proposals that are likely to increase shareholder value and/or promote and protect shareholder rights. We typically prefer to leave decisions regarding day-to-day management of the business and policy decisions related to political, social or environmental issues to management and the board except when we see a clear and direct link between the proposal and some economic or financial issue for the company.

*Non-U.S. Proxy Voting Policy*

*of*

*the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*  
*Public School Employees' Retirement Board*

As adopted by  
the Board of Trustees  
on September 17, 1993

Effective  
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PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NON-U.S. PROXY VOTING POLICY

GENERAL

The voting policies approved by this Board ("Approved Policies") apply to all non-U.S. proxies that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) is entitled to vote. PSERS shall cast a vote FOR or AGAINST or register an ABSTENTION in all such proxies.

In voting proxies, PSERS shall consider the factors affecting the value of the investment and vote in the manner that, in its view, best serves the economic interest of PSERS' beneficiaries. Consistent with this objective, PSERS will normally vote in accordance with the Approved Policies.

Recognizing the differences in the corporate practices and regulatory environments among the various non-U.S. equity markets in which PSERS holds proxy voting rights, the Board shall endeavor, to the extent practicable, to apply individual, country-by-country policies that protect and enhance shareholder interests under the prevailing market conditions. The Board shall also endeavor to apply proxy voting policies for countries that are newly added to its non-U.S. activity and to update existing policies as appropriate from time to time.

Recognizing further that PSERS' Proxy Voting Agent, Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC (Glass Lewis), performs the underlying research and formulates original, country-specific proxy voting policies for its clients, this Board hereby adopts the Glass Lewis International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines, except for the voting guidelines pertaining to Shareholder Initiatives adopted below. The Glass Lewis International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines may be amended or expanded from time to time without further action by this Board, unless a policy change is considered by the Investment Office not to best serve the economic interest of PSERS' beneficiaries. This Board possesses the authority and reserves the right (i) to modify any voting policy in such manner it deems appropriate at any time, and (ii) to direct Glass Lewis to change any recommendation under this Policy in such manner as the Board deems appropriate.

The following are the Board-approved voting guidelines that override the standard Glass Lewis International Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines related to these issues:

SHAREHOLDER INITIATIVES

*This section replaces the standard guidelines used by Glass Lewis in voting shareholder initiatives in each non-U.S. country's Glass Lewis Proxy Paper Policy Guidelines.*

NORTHERN IRELAND RESOLUTIONS

PSERS will vote FOR resolutions pertaining to Northern Ireland that advocate adoption of the affirmative action measures set forth in 24 Pa. C.S. §8527(b), including adopting or reporting on MacBride Principles.

*The MacBride principles are a set of nine equal opportunity/affirmative action principles aimed at fighting religious discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland.*

#### LABOR PRACTICES

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES

#### MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS POLICIES

#### FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS POLICIES

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

PSERS will generally ABSTAIN from voting on proposals dealing with these issues in instances in which the best economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries will not be affected positively or negatively by the determination of such an issue. In situations in which the proposal is likely to enhance the economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries, PSERS will generally vote FOR the proposal. Conversely, in situations in which the proposal is likely to be detrimental to the economic interests of PSERS' beneficiaries, PSERS will generally vote AGAINST the proposal.

*PSERS may consider the following in analyzing shareholder initiatives:*

- whether adoption of the proposal would have either a positive or negative impact on the company's short-term or long-term share value;*
- the percentage of sales, assets, and earnings affected;*
- the degree to which the company's stated position on issues raised in the proposal could affect its reputation or sales, or leave it vulnerable to boycott or selective purchasing;*
- whether the issues presented should be dealt with through government action or through company-specific action;*
- whether the company has already responded in some appropriate manner to the request embodied in the proposal;*
- whether the company's analysis and voting recommendation to shareholders is persuasive;*
- what other companies have done in response to the issue;*
- whether the proposal itself is well framed and reasonable;*
- whether implementation of the proposal would achieve the objectives sought in the proposal; and*
- whether the subject of the proposal is best left to the discretion of the board.*

#### DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

Glass Lewis shall cast all votes on behalf of PSERS in accordance with this Non-U.S. Proxy Voting Policy, the receipt of which is acknowledged by the undersigned.

Glass Lewis shall exercise reasonable diligence and undertake such efforts as may be necessary to keep itself informed and acquire the expertise to render each voting recommendation intelligently.

In the application of this Approved Policy, the Chief Investment Officer has the authority to interpret the Policy to meet PSERS' fiduciary responsibilities. On significant policy issues, the Chief Investment Officer and/or the Executive Director, in conjunction with the Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee and/or Chair of the Board, will evaluate and determine any proxy vote. The vote on such matters will be reported to the Corporate Governance Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Pennsylvania Public School  
Employees' Retirement System

Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC

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# **INTERNATIONAL PROXY PAPER POLICY GUIDELINES**

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLASS LEWIS APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL PROXY ADVICE**

Please note: Glass Lewis creates separate, proxy voting policies designed specifically for each individual country. The following is a distillation of the various country-specific policies.

## **I. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

### Board of Directors

Boards are put in place to represent shareholders and protect their interests. Glass Lewis seeks boards with a proven record of protecting shareholders and delivering value over the medium- and long-term. In our view, boards working to protect and enhance the best interests of shareholders typically include some independent directors (the percentage will vary by local market practice and regulations), boast a record of positive performance, have directors with diverse backgrounds, and appoint directors with a breadth and depth of experience.

### *Board Composition*

When possible, we look at each individual on the board and examine his or her relationships with the company, the company's executives and with other board members. The purpose of this inquiry is to determine whether pre-existing personal, familial or financial relationships are likely to impact the decisions of that board member. Where the company does not disclose the names and backgrounds of director nominees with sufficient time in advance of the shareholder meeting to evaluate their independence and performance, we will consider abstaining on the directors' election.

We vote in favor of governance structures that will drive positive performance and enhance shareholder value. The most crucial test of a board's commitment to the company and to its shareholders is the performance of the board and its members. The performance of directors in their capacity as board members and as executives of the company, when applicable, and in their roles at other companies where they serve is critical to this evaluation.

We believe a director is independent if he or she has no material financial, familial or other current relationships with the company, its executives or other board members except for service on the board and standard fees paid for that service. Relationships that have existed within the five years prior to the inquiry are usually considered to be "current" for purposes of this test.

In our view, a director is affiliated if he or she has a material financial, familial or other relationship with the company or its executives, but is not an employee of the company. This includes directors whose employers have a material financial relationship with the Company. This also includes a director who owns or controls 25% or more of the company's voting stock.

We define an inside director as one who simultaneously serves as a director and as an

employee of the company. This category may include a chairman of the board who acts as an employee of the company or is paid as an employee of the company.

Although we typically vote for the election of directors, we will withhold from directors for the following reasons:

- A director who attends less than 75% of the board and applicable committee meetings.
- A director who is also the CEO of a company where a serious restatement has occurred after the CEO certified the pre-restatement financial statements.

We also feel that the following conflicts of interest may hinder a director's performance and will therefore withhold from a:

- CFO who presently sits on the board.
- Director who presently sits on an excessive number of boards.
- Director, or a director whose immediate family member, provides material professional services to the company at any time during the past five years.
- Director, or a director whose immediate family member, engages in airplane, real estate or other similar deals, including perquisite type grants from the company.
- Director with an interlocking directorship.

### *Slate Elections*

In some countries, companies elect their board members as a slate, whereby shareholders are unable to vote on the election of each individual director, but rather are limited to voting for or against the board as a whole. If significant issues exist concerning one or more of the nominees, we will recommend voting against the entire slate of directors.

### *Board Committee Composition*

We believe that independent directors should serve on a company's audit, compensation, nominating and governance committees. We will support boards with such a structure and encourage change where this is not the case.

### *Review of Risk Management Controls*

We believe companies, particularly financial firms, should have a dedicated risk committee, or a committee of the board charged with risk oversight, as well as a chief risk officer who reports directly to that committee, not to the CEO or another executive.

In cases where a company has disclosed a sizable loss or writedown, and where a reasonable analysis indicates that the company's board-level risk committee should be held accountable for poor oversight, we would recommend that shareholders vote against such committee members on that basis. In addition, in cases where a company maintains a significant level of financial risk exposure but fails to disclose any explicit form of board-level risk oversight (committee or otherwise), we will consider recommending to vote against the chairman of the board on that basis.

### Classified Boards

Glass Lewis favors the repeal of staggered boards in favor of the annual election of directors. We believe that staggered boards are less accountable to shareholders than annually elected boards. Furthermore, we feel that the annual election of directors encourages board members to focus on protecting the interests of shareholders.

## **II. FINANCIAL REPORTING**

### ***Accounts and Reports***

Many countries require companies to submit the annual financial statements, director reports and independent auditors' reports to shareholders at a general meeting. Shareholder approval of such a proposal does not discharge the board or management. We will usually recommend voting in favor of these proposals except when there are concerns about the integrity of the statements/reports. However, should the audited financial statements, auditor's report and/or annual report not be published at the writing of our report, we will recommend that shareholders abstain from voting on this proposal.

### ***Income Allocation (Distribution of Dividend)***

In many countries, companies must submit the allocation of income for shareholder approval. We will generally recommend voting for such a proposal. However, we will give particular scrutiny to cases where the company's dividend payout ratio is exceptionally low or excessively high relative to its peers and the company has not provided a satisfactory explanation. We generally recommend abstaining from dividends with payout ratios of less than 10% or more than 200%.

### ***Appointment of Auditors and Authority to Set Fees***

We believe that role of the auditor is crucial in protecting shareholder value. Like directors, auditors should be free from conflicts of interest and should assiduously avoid situations that require them to make choices between their own interests and the interests of the shareholders.

We generally support management's recommendation regarding the selection of an auditor and support granting the board the authority to fix auditor fees except in cases where we believe the independence of an incumbent auditor or the integrity of the audit has been compromised.

However, we recommend voting against ratification of the auditor and/or authorizing the board to set auditor fees for the following reasons:

- When audit fees added to audit-related fees total less than one-third of total fees.
- When there have been any recent restatements or late filings by the company where the auditor bears some responsibility for the restatement or late filing (e.g., a restatement due to a reporting error).
- When the company has aggressive accounting policies.
- When the company has poor disclosure or lack of transparency in financial statements.
- When there are other relationships or issues of concern with the auditor that might suggest a conflict between the interest of the auditor and the interests of shareholders.
- When the company is changing auditors as a result of a disagreement between the company and the auditor on a matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedures.

### **III. COMPENSATION**

#### ***Compensation Report/Compensation Policy***

We will usually recommend voting against approval of the compensation report or policy when any of the following occur:

- Executives are employed without service contracts;
- Service contracts provide for notice periods longer than one year;
- Service contracts provide for the enhancement of employment terms or compensation rights in excess of one year in the event of a change of control;
- Payments have been made or longer-term obligations entered into (including pension obligations) to compensate an executive who has voluntarily left the company and this has not been fully disclosed and justified;
- Ex gratia or other non-contractual payments have been made and the reasons for making the payments have not been fully explained or the explanation is unconvincing; or

- Egregious or excessive bonuses, equity awards or severance payments.

### ***Long Term Incentive Plans***

Glass Lewis recognizes the value of equity-based incentive programs. When used appropriately, they can provide a vehicle for linking an employee's pay to a company's performance, thereby aligning their interests with those of shareholders. Tying a portion of an employee's compensation to the performance of the Company provides an incentive to maximize share value. In addition, equity-based compensation is an effective way to attract, retain and motivate key employees.

In order to allow for meaningful shareholder review, we believe that incentive programs should generally include: (i) specific and appropriate performance goals; (ii) a maximum award pool; and (iii) a maximum award amount per employee. In addition, the payments made should be reasonable relative to the performance of the business and total compensation to those covered by the plan should be in line with compensation paid by the Company's peers.

### **Performance-Based Equity Compensation**

Glass Lewis believes in performance-based equity compensation plans for senior executives. We feel that executives should be compensated with equity when their performance and that of the company warrants such rewards. While we do not believe that equity-based compensation plans for all employees need to be based on overall company performance, we do support such limitations for grants to senior executives (although even some equity-based compensation of senior executives without performance criteria is acceptable, such as in the case of moderate incentive grants made in an initial offer of employment).

Boards often argue that such a proposal would hinder them in attracting talent. We believe that boards can develop a consistent, reliable approach, as boards of many companies have, that would still attract executives who believe in their ability to guide the company to achieve its targets. We generally recommend that shareholders vote in favor of performance-based option requirements.

There should be no retesting of performance conditions for all share- and option-based incentive schemes. We will generally recommend that shareholders vote against performance-based equity compensation plans that allow for re-testing.

### ***Director Compensation***

Glass Lewis believes that non-employee directors should receive compensation for the time and effort they spend serving on the board and its committees. In particular, we

support compensation plans that include equity-based awards, which help to align the interests of outside directors with those of shareholders. Director fees should be reasonable in order to retain and attract qualified individuals.

Glass Lewis compares the costs of these plans to the plans of peer companies with similar market capitalizations in the same country to help inform its judgment on this issue.

### **Retirement Benefits for Directors**

We will typically recommend voting against proposals to grant retirement benefits to non-executive directors. Such extended payments can impair the objectivity and independence of these board members. Directors should receive adequate compensation for their board service through initial and annual fees.

### ***Limits on Executive Compensation***

As a general rule, Glass Lewis believes that shareholders should not be involved in setting executive compensation. Such matters should be left to the board's compensation committee. We view the election of directors, and specifically those who sit on the compensation committee, as the appropriate mechanism for shareholders to express their disapproval or support of board policy on this issue. Further, we believe that companies whose pay-for-performance is in line with their peers should be granted the flexibility to compensate their executives in a manner that drives growth and profit.

However, Glass Lewis favors performance-based compensation as an effective means of motivating executives to act in the best interests of shareholders. Performance-based compensation may be limited if a chief executive's pay is capped at a low level rather than flexibly tied to the performance of the company.

### ***Advisory Votes on Compensation***

We closely review companies' remuneration practices and disclosure as outlined in company filings to evaluate management-submitted advisory compensation vote proposals. In evaluating these proposals, which can be binding or non-binding depending on the country, we examine how well the company has disclosed information pertinent to its compensation programs, the extent to which overall compensation is tied to performance, the performance metrics selected by the company and the levels of remuneration in comparison to company performance and that of its peers.

## **IV. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### ***Amendments to the Articles of Association***

We will evaluate proposed amendments to a company's articles of association on a case-by-case basis. We are opposed to the practice of bundling several amendments under a single proposal because it might force shareholders to vote in favor of amendments that they might otherwise reject had they been submitted as separate proposals. In such cases, we will analyze each change individually. We will recommend voting for the proposal only when we believe that all of the amendments are in the best interests of shareholders.

### ***Anti-Takeover Measures***

#### **Poison Pills (Shareholder Rights Plans)**

Glass Lewis believes that poison pill plans generally are not in the best interests of shareholders. Specifically, they can reduce management accountability by substantially limiting opportunities for corporate takeovers. Rights plans can thus prevent shareholders from receiving a buy-out premium for their stock.

We believe that boards should be given wide latitude in directing the activities of the company and charting the company's course. However, on an issue such as this where the link between the financial interests of shareholders and their right to consider and accept buyout offers is so substantial, we believe that shareholders should be allowed to vote on whether or not they support such a plan's implementation.

In certain limited circumstances, we will support a limited poison pill to accomplish a particular objective, such as the closing of an important merger, or a pill that contains what we believe to be a reasonable 'qualifying offer' clause.

#### ***Increase in Authorized Shares***

Glass Lewis believes that adequate capital stock is important to the operation of a company. We will generally support proposals when a company could reasonably use the requested shares for financing, stock splits and stock dividends. While we think that having adequate shares to allow management to make quick decisions and effectively operate the business is critical, we prefer that, for significant transactions, management come to shareholders to justify their use of additional shares rather than providing a blank check in the form of large pools of unallocated shares available for any purpose.

In general, we will support proposals to increase authorized shares up to 100% of the number of shares currently authorized unless, after the increase the company would be left with less than 30 % of its authorized shares outstanding.

#### ***Issuance of Shares***

Issuing additional shares can dilute existing holders in limited circumstances. Further, the availability of additional shares, where the board has discretion to implement a poison pill, can often serve as a deterrent to interested suitors. Accordingly, where we find that the company has not disclosed a detailed plan for use of the proposed shares, or where the number of shares requested are excessive, we typically recommend against the issuance. In the case of a private placement, we will also consider whether the company is offering a discount to its share price.

In general, we will support proposals to issue shares (with pre-emption rights) when the requested increase is the lesser of (i) the unissued ordinary share capital; or (ii) a sum equal to one-third of the issued ordinary share capital. This authority should not exceed five years. In some countries, if the proposal contains a figure greater than one-third, the company should explain the nature of the additional amounts.

We will also generally support proposals to suspend pre-emption rights for a maximum of 5% of the issued ordinary share capital of the company. If the proposal contains a figure greater than 5%, the company should provide an explanation. This authority should not exceed five years, or less for some countries.

### ***Repurchase of Shares***

We will recommend voting in favor of a proposal to repurchase shares when the plan includes the following provisions: (i) a maximum number of shares which may be purchased (typically not more than 15% of the issued share capital); and (ii) a maximum price which may be paid for each share (as a percentage of the market price).

### ***Supermajority Vote Requirements***

Glass Lewis favors a simple majority voting structure. Supermajority vote requirements act as impediments to shareholder action on ballot items that are critical to our interests. One key example is in the takeover context where supermajority vote requirements can strongly limit shareholders' input in making decisions on such crucial matters as selling the business.