



AS YOU SOW

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 30, 2012

**CONTACT:** Glenn Turner, 917-817-3396, [glenn@ripplestrategies.com](mailto:glenn@ripplestrategies.com)  
Or Shayna Samuels, 718-541-4785, [shayna@ripplestrategies.com](mailto:shayna@ripplestrategies.com)

## **ExxonMobil and Chevron Shareholders Pressure Companies to Come Clean on Fracking**

At today's annual meetings, ExxonMobil and Chevron shareholders demanded that these companies come clean on how fracking is impacting their bottom lines. Community opposition to and increased regulation of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is growing across the U.S. and around the world, which has direct ramifications for Chevron and ExxonMobil, given their size and reach.

For the third consecutive year, votes on this issue have averaged more than 30%. This year, shareholders voted 30%\* for the [ExxonMobil resolution](#), 27%\* for the [Chevron resolution](#), and 35%\*\* for the [Ultra Petroleum resolution](#). This demonstrates ongoing concern from large institutional investors and a dramatic difference from most shareholder resolutions, which typically result in single digit votes.

"While other companies are becoming more transparent in how they are managing the risks associated with fracking, ExxonMobil and Chevron are industry laggards when it comes to disclosure," said Michael Passoff, Senior Strategist at [As You Sow](#), a shareholder advocacy group that filed the ExxonMobil resolution on behalf of the [Park Foundation](#). "It is time for these major oil and gas companies to take a hard look at how they are going to manage the inherent financial and environmental risks of their fracking practices."

Natural gas production from shale formations in the United States has grown dramatically in recent years, amidst expanding controversy over the impacts of fracking. Incidents of poorly constructed wells, equipment failures, degraded local and regional air quality, water contamination, lawsuits, strained community relations, and related government enforcement actions have contributed to calls for increased regulation and outright community opposition.

Just this month, Vermont became the first state to completely ban fracking. New York, New Jersey, and Maryland have all imposed moratoriums, as well. Outside of the U.S., France and Bulgaria have banned fracturing, and Quebec, Germany, and South Africa, among other jurisdictions, have enacted moratoriums, which is of particular concern to global oil and gas companies, including Chevron and ExxonMobil.

These shareholder proposals are part of a larger effort coordinated by [Green Century Capital Management](#) and the [Investor Environmental Health Network](#) to press companies to increase disclosure around their fracking operations. This season, investors withdrew 70% of their proposals after the companies agreed to provide increased transparency and ongoing engagement with shareholders on key investor concerns.

"Shareholders not only have the right, but the responsibility to press companies on how this increasingly controversial practice will affect their bottom lines," said Larisa Ruoff, Director of Shareholder Advocacy for Green Century Capital Management. "Today's votes should send a clear message to Chevron and

ExxonMobil that their existing transparency fails to meet investor and community concerns, and it is time for them to respond.”

This year, ExxonMobil attempted to block the shareholder proposal from appearing on its proxy ballot, but the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [rejected the company’s request](#), saying “it does not appear that ExxonMobil’s public disclosures compare favorably with the guidelines of the proposal.”

“The SEC decision clearly indicates that ExxonMobil’s existing disclosure falls short of what investors are looking for,” said Jon Jensen, Executive Director of the Park Foundation. “This proposal has been filed three years running without a meaningful response from the company. How long must ExxonMobil’s shareholders wait?”

# # #

*\* This percentage is the preliminary result released by ExxonMobil and Chevron during their annual meetings. Learn more about interpreting shareholder support at <http://www.asyousow.org/csr/shareholder.shtml>.*

*\*\* This percentage is the final result released by Ultra Petroleum. Percentage in favor was calculated by dividing the number of votes in support of the proposal by the sum of the number of votes voted in support of and against the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes were not included in the calculation.*

**As You Sow** is a nonprofit organization that promotes corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building, and innovative legal strategies. For more information, visit [www.asyousow.org](http://www.asyousow.org).