

Shareholders to Southern Company: Transition from Coal to Low-Carbon Business Model

One-third of Southern Company Shareholders Vote for Climate Resolutions By As You Sow and Tri-State Coalition

Atlanta, GA – May 25, 2016 – Shareholder resolutions filed at Southern Company by shareholder advocacy group, [As You Sow](#), and faith-based investor coalition, the [Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment](#) (“Tri-State CRI”) sent Southern Company’s Board and management a strong message: the time has come to take to reduce carbon asset risk and align its business with a “2 degrees” climate scenario. Southern Company, which generates the [third highest level of carbon dioxide of U.S. utilities](#), and uses the third highest level of coal, has been the subject of investor attention in recent years.

The shareholder resolutions received strong support from Southern Company investors:

- As You Sow’s resolution pushed Southern to quantify and disclose its “carbon asset risk”, or the potential losses to shareholders from coal operations. The resolution received preliminary results of 29% of shares voted in support, representing approximately \$13 billion in investor assets. Southern’s newest coal plant, Kemper, is two years behind schedule, \$4 billion over budget, and is being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- The Tri-State CRI resolution, filed by Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ, and 9 institutions, requests Southern disclose its strategy for aligning business operations with the internationally accepted goal of limiting global warming temperature increase to 2°C. The resolution received 34% of shares voted in favor, representing approximately \$15 billion in investors assets, increasing pressure on Southern to share its plans for modifying its business model to meet the 2°C target.

“Investors are clear: Southern must provide a transparent plan for addressing the risks and opportunities of its transition to a low carbon economy,” said Mary Beth Gallagher, Associate Director at Tri-State CRI. A youth member of Georgia Sierra Club (which co-filed the business model resolution) Marinangeles Gutierrez added “Southern must take meaningful steps towards a low carbon future, not only for the sake of ratepayers but also for its stakeholders, vulnerable frontline communities, and future generations.”

Amelia Timbers, As You Sow’s Energy Program Manager agreed: “Adopting a low-carbon business model could reduce the carbon asset risk of Southern Company’s coal fleet. Until it takes action, Southern’s investors are exposed to losses.”

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CONTACT:

Taraneh Arhamsadr, (510) 735-8157, tarhamsadr@asyousow.org

Mary Beth Gallagher, (973) 509-8800, mbgallagher@tricri.org