



Office of the Chancellor

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April 15, 2021

Timothy L. Killeen
President
University of Illinois System
364 Henry Administration Bldg.
506 South Wright Street, MC-346
Urbana, IL 61801

James H. Moore, Jr.
President/CEO
University of Illinois Foundation
1305 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801-2962

Dear Tim and Jim,

This past year, even as we navigated the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign continued to celebrate new milestones in our long and storied history. One of those significant markers was the release of the third iteration of the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP). This is our strategic sustainability plan for achieving carbon neutrality, or net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, by 2050 or sooner. A copy of that report is attached to this message and I would ask that you share it with the Board of Trustees and the University of Illinois Foundation (UIF) Board for their future reference.

I believe the framework and the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves are consistent with our land-grant, public service mission and that they are also well-aligned with the UIF and University focus on mission-related investment to provide financial support for the university while generated positive and measurable social and environmental change. I write to commend the efforts by the UIF and the University to date and support additional discourse regarding the expansion and acceleration of those strategies as new opportunities emerge in the years to come.

I ask that you continue to evaluate investment opportunities and exposures for both their financial risk and return along with environmental, social and governance factors. This approach has been instrumental in the Foundation's strategic, careful and steady reduction in its holdings in the fossil fuel sector – with coal exposure now comprising less than one half of one percent of the total holdings and bringing oil and gas down to around five percent.

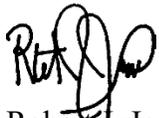
Generating a sustained, reliable and healthy return on our endowment is a critical component of our university's overall operations. These funds directly and immediately impact every single one of our educational, research and engagement missions. And increased philanthropic support

will be more important than ever in supporting our comprehensive excellence as we continue to see downward trends in the traditional funding sources of public higher education.

I sincerely appreciate the University and UIF efforts to deliver on this enormously important fiscal responsibility while simultaneously working to incorporate mission-related and environmental, social and governance approaches into your investment decisions. These are important steps for our entire society and they are also a very public demonstration of our university commitment to live and operate according to the values we have set out.

The goals and initiatives we have set out in the iCAP 2020 plan are ambitious and bold. It is exactly the kind of visionary thinking and leadership our state and nation has come to expect from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I appreciate and am grateful to the University of Illinois System and the University of Illinois Foundation for demonstrating those same qualities in your decisions and strategies to grow and protect our endowment and to shape it in ways that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor

Attachment