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Categorical Standards. Only two of our director nominees are deemed not independent, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Gifford.

- **Our key Committees are composed of Independent Directors.** The Audit, Compensation and Benefits and Corporate Governance Committees are each composed solely of independent directors. The Asset Quality Committee is composed of a majority of independent directors. The Executive Committee is composed of a majority of independent directors and is chaired by the independent Lead Director.
- **Non-Management and Independent Directors meet regularly.** At each regularly scheduled Board meeting, the non-management directors meet in executive session without management directors. Non-management director executive sessions are chaired by the Lead Director. If the group of non-management directors includes any directors who are not independent as defined by the Director Independence Categorical Standards, the independent directors are required to meet in executive session at least annually.

The Board's current structure of combining the positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is consistent with practices at 61% of the S&P 500 companies, according to the publicly available Spencer Stuart US Board Index 2008 (released November 2008) available at [spencerstuart.com](http://spencerstuart.com). U.S. companies have historically followed a model in which the chief executive officer also serves as chairman of the board. This model has succeeded because it makes clear that the chief executive officer and chairman is responsible for managing the corporation's business, under the oversight and review of its board. This structure also enables the chief executive officer to act as a bridge between management and the board, helping both to act with a common purpose.

In summary, the Board opposes this proposal because it eliminates the Board's ability to exercise its business judgment and select a chairman based on our particular needs at such time and because the Board believes we already receive substantial oversight from our independent directors.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board recommends a vote against the proposal.

[BACproxyVote.com](http://BACproxyVote.com)

Says **AGAINST**

**ITEM 9: STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING PREDATORY CREDIT CARD LENDING PRACTICES**

The Corporation has received the following stockholder proposal from Domini Social Investments, 536 Broadway, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10012, as co-lead filer, and the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, 609 South Convent Road, Aston, Pennsylvania 19014, as co-lead filer. According to information provided to the Corporation by Domini Social Investments, Domini Social Investments owned 455,200 shares of our Common Stock as of the date the proposal was submitted to the Corporation. According to information provided to the Corporation by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia owned at least \$2,000 worth of our Common Stock as of the date the proposal was submitted to the Corporation. For information on additional co-filers, please contact the Corporation at 980.386.7483.

### Predatory Credit Card Lending Practices

#### Whereas:

Our company is one of the nation's largest credit card issuers, with tens of billions of dollars in outstanding credit card loans to consumers.

Amid the economic uncertainty sparked by the sub-prime mortgage crisis, some banks are turning to their high-margin credit card divisions to help offset their losses elsewhere.

In the wake of declining home values and the inability to tap into this source of funds, many Americans are turning to credit cards as a last source of capital to get them through difficult times.

According to the Federal Reserve Statistical Release, revolving debt as a percentage of total debt in US households is dramatically increasing and credit card loans are at their highest delinquency rates since 1993.

The sub-prime borrowing class is the most profitable market segment for credit card issuers, and most vulnerable to predatory practices.

Sub-prime consumers, specifically those with FICO credit scores less than 660, are often targeted with "fee harvesting" cards. These cards, which typically carry a limit of no more than \$500, can cost borrowers up to half or more of their credit limit simply in activation and maintenance fees, while positioning the cardholder to unknowingly incur late, over-the-limit and other fees.

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Based on an October 2008 report by Innovest, 30% of our company's credit card accounts are classified as sub-prime.

Aggressive and questionable marketing to teenagers and college students – often using poor lending criteria – has contributed to a rise in undergraduate credit card debt from an average of \$2,169 in 2004 to \$8,612 in 2006.

Provisions such as universal default, sometimes known as risk-based pricing, unfairly penalize borrowers with higher rates on accounts where they have never missed a payment.

Typical credit card practices such as bait and switch marketing, changes of mailing address, delayed billing, hidden fees and unintelligible cardholder agreements hurt consumers.

**Resolved:** That the shareholders request the Board of Directors to complete a report to shareholders, prepared at reasonable cost and omitting proprietary information, evaluating with respect to practices commonly deemed to be predatory, our company's credit card marketing, lending and collection practices and the impact these practices have on borrowers.

### **Stockholder's Statement Supporting Item 9:**

Trapping consumers in debt under predatory terms that make successful repayment virtually impossible weakens the long-term financial prospects of our company and the national economy as a whole. Credit card policies and practices designed to strengthen (rather than abuse) consumers' financial health are in the best interest of our company and its clients.

### **The Board recommends a vote "AGAINST" Item 9 for the following reasons:**

The Board has considered this proposal and believes that its adoption is unnecessary because the Corporation does not engage in any of the "predatory" practices suggested by the proposal.

The proposal falsely implies that the Corporation engages in certain predatory practices. In fact, the Corporation is a responsible corporate citizen. It does not offer "fee harvesting" cards. It does not engage in any aggressive, questionable or unethical marketing or servicing practices, whether involving teenagers, college students or others. Contrary to what the proposal suggests, the Corporation clearly informs its customers of all terms of its credit card products.

In addition, the proponent's concerns over abusive credit card practices, high credit card delinquency rates, "sub-prime borrowing," "fee harvesting cards" and universal default have been or will be addressed by current banking regulations. For example, on December 18, 2008, a joint rule (the "Final Rule") was issued by the Office of Thrift Supervision, Federal Reserve Board and National Credit Union Association that relates to the marketing, originating and servicing of credit cards, banning practices that have been cited as unfair to consumers. The Final Rule, which will be applicable to the Corporation and effective July 2010:

- prohibits a bank from treating a payment on a consumer credit card as late unless the customer has been provided with a reasonable period of time to make a payment
- requires banks to allocate any amounts paid over the minimum payment, when the credit card account has balances with different annual percentage rates, either (i) first to the highest interest balance or (ii) proportionately to all balances
- requires banks to disclose the annual percentage rate (APR) that will apply to each category of transactions on the consumer credit card account at account opening and prohibits banks from increasing the interest rate, except in certain specified circumstances
- prohibits a bank from imposing finance charges on consumer credit card balances based on balances for days in billing cycles that precede the most recent billing cycle as a result of the loss of any time period provided by the bank within which the consumer may repay any portion of the credit extended without incurring a finance charge
- prohibits banks from charging a consumer credit card account with "security deposits and fees for the issuance or availability of credit that in total constitute a majority of the initial credit limit for the account" during the first year after account opening

For the foregoing reasons, the Board recommends a vote against the proposal.