

November 14, 2019

Via email: hubert.allen@abbott.com

Mr. Hubert L. Allen
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Abbott Laboratories
Dept. 0364, Bldg. AP6D-2 100
Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Allen:

The Unitarian Universalist Association, a long-time shareowner of Abbott Laboratories, is hereby submitting the enclosed resolution for consideration at the upcoming annual meeting. The resolution requests that the Board authorize the preparation of a report, to be updated annually, disclosing the company's lobbying activities and expenditures.

The Unitarian Universalist Association ("UUA") is a faith community of more than 1000 self-governing congregations that brings to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance and social justice. With roots in the Jewish and Christian traditions, Unitarianism and Universalism have been forces in American spirituality from the time of the first Pilgrim and Puritan settlers. The UUA is also an investor with an endowment valued at approximately \$197 million, the earnings from which are an important source of revenue supporting our work in the world. The UUA takes its responsibility as an investor and shareowner very seriously. We view the shareholder resolution process as an opportunity to bear witness to our values at the same time that we enhance the long-term value of our investments.

We submit the enclosed resolution for inclusion in the proxy statement in accordance with Rule 14a-8 of the General Rules and Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 for consideration and action by the shareowners at the upcoming annual meeting. We have held at least \$2,000 in market value of the company's common stock for more than one year as of the filing date and will continue to hold at least the requisite number of shares for filing proxy resolutions through the stockholders' meeting.

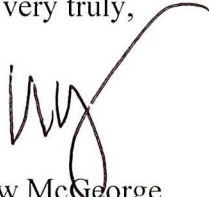


UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

Andrew McGeorge, CFA
Treasurer and
Chief Financial Officer

Verification that we are beneficial owners of the requisite shares of Abbott Laboratories is enclosed. If you have questions or wish to discuss the proposal, please contact Timothy Brennan who is representing the UUA at (617) 620-0574 or tbrennan@uua.org.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrew McGeorge', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Andrew McGeorge

cc: Timothy Brennan

Enclosure: Shareholder resolution
Proof of ownership

Whereas, we believe in full disclosure of Abbott Laboratories' ("Abbott") direct and indirect lobbying activities and expenditures to assess whether Abbott's lobbying is consistent with its expressed goals and in the best interests of stockholders.

Resolved, the stockholders of Abbott request the preparation of a report, updated annually, disclosing:

1. Company policy and procedures governing lobbying, both direct and indirect, and grassroots lobbying communications.
2. Payments by Abbott used for (a) direct or indirect lobbying or (b) grassroots lobbying communications, in each case including the amount of the payment and the recipient.
3. Abbott's membership in and payments to any tax-exempt organization that writes and endorses model legislation.
4. Description of management's decision-making process and the Board's oversight for making payments described in section 2 above.

For purposes of this proposal, a "grassroots lobbying communication" is a communication directed to the general public that (a) refers to specific legislation or regulation, (b) reflects a view on the legislation or regulation and (c) encourages the recipient of the communication to take action with respect to the legislation or regulation. "Indirect lobbying" is lobbying engaged in by a trade association or other organization of which Abbott is a member.

Both "direct and indirect lobbying" and "grassroots lobbying communications" include efforts at the local, state and federal levels.

The report shall be presented to the Public Policy Committee and posted on Abbott's website.

Supporting Statement

We encourage transparency in Abbott's use of funds to lobby. Abbott spent \$32,730,000 from 2010 – 2018 on federal lobbying. This figure does not include lobbying expenditures to influence legislation in states, where Abbott also lobbies in 37 states¹ but disclosure is uneven or absent. For example, Abbott spent \$822,611 on lobbying in California from 2010 – 2018. Abbott was one of the top three lobbying medical device companies for the previous five years,² and Abbott's lobbying on infant formula has attracted media scrutiny.³

Abbott sits on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, which has spent over \$1.5 billion on lobbying since 1998, and also belongs to the Business Roundtable (BRT) and National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), which together spent over \$68 million on lobbying for 2017 and 2018. Both the BRT and NAM are lobbying restrict the ability of shareholders to file resolutions. Abbott does not disclose its payments to trade associations or the amounts used for lobbying.

We are concerned that Abbott's lack of lobbying disclosure presents significant reputational risk when its lobbying contradicts company public positions. For example, Abbott believes in addressing climate change, yet the Chamber undermined the Paris climate accord. And Abbott supports good health, yet the Chamber has worked to block global antismoking laws. We believe the reputational damage stemming from this

¹ <https://publicintegrity.org/state-politics/here-are-the-interests-lobbying-in-every-statehouse/>

² <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-care/medical-device-makers-spend-millions-lobbying-loosen-regs-d-c-n940351>

³ <https://maplight.org/story/infant-formula-makers-sweetened-mothers-milk-of-politics-with-60-million-in-lobbying-funds/>

misalignment between general policy positions and actual direct and indirect lobbying efforts harms long-term value creation by Abbott. Thus, we urge Abbott to expand its lobbying disclosure.