Accountable.US

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Brian Moynihan
CEO, Bank of America
100 North Tryon Street,
Charlotte, NC 28255

Dear Brian Moynihan:

I am writing on behalf of Accountable.US, a nonpartisan investigative research organization that has been documenting the corporate response to the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, the wave of voter suppression efforts that followed at the state level, and efforts in Congress to protect the right to vote. We have found that Bank of America can do far better in terms of supporting our nation's most sacred institution – democracy.

Growing threats to our democracy are now a top concern among Americans, as echoed by President Biden's national address last month. Today, the January 6th Committee is expected to roll out more evidence that the insurrection was incited at the highest levels.

Our organization recently launched the American Democracy Scorecard project. The project assigns a score to each Fortune 100 company based upon its political spending, public statements on voting rights, affiliations with special interest groups working to expand or undermine democracy, transparency in political activities, and other efforts such as providing voter information resources to customers or employees.

Based on fourteen criteria, Bank of America received a grade of B.

Our full methodology can be found at:
www.americandemocracyscorecard.org/methodology/

As examples of behavior that increased your company's score, Bank of America:

- Did not donate to federal lawmakers who objected to certifying the 2020 presidential election
- Did not donate to federal lawmakers who opposed voting rights legislation during the 2022 election cycle
- Did not donate to members of congress who opposed the formation of a January 6th commission
- Took a major action in support of voting rights or democracy

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Among the behavior that counted against the overall grade, we found Bank of America has donated:

Your company contributed $2,000 to state lawmakers that have pushed voter restriction legislation that disproportionately targets voters of color.
Key staff also contributed at least $95,820 to anti-democracy federal legislators

You have likely seen the surveys showing Americans want corporations to use their power and influence to strengthen it. One survey from Data for Progress found a majority of voters “say they would be less likely to buy from a corporation that donated to members of Congress who voted to overturn the presidential election results.”

A May 2022 Morning Consult survey found “64%+ of consumers say that a business with a public commitment to democracy shows the business cares about its customers, their employees, and has the right values.” That same Morning Consult survey found that nearly half (45%) of consumers say they are more likely to accept a job if their employer or future employer participated in the democratic process. These surveys even came before the January 6th Committee in Congress began releasing their stunning findings on how twice-impeached former President Trump and many of his congressional allies incited the Capitol riot with the intent of negating the will of the American people.

The American Democracy Scorecard will continue to serve as a living, interactive public resource for consumers, prospective employees, and shareholders to see where major companies stand on democracy. It’s clear most want to buy from, work for, or invest in a company that shares their values, not just one that preserves its bottom line.

Our democracy’s survival is quite literally at stake, which means your bottom line might be as well. Down the road, we sincerely hope we can update Bank of America’s public profile on the website with a better grade. If you have any questions or concerns about how our organization arrived at these conclusions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Kyle Herrig
President, Accountable.US

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