

**ITEM B.106  
FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

**Subject: Comment on the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) – Overture 012 (Business Item #09-01) “On PC (USA) Fossil Fuel Divestment.” – From the Presbytery of San Francisco**

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 012 (Business Item #09-01) “On PC (USA) Fossil Fuel Divestment.” – From the Presbytery of San Francisco**

**Comment:**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (PMAB) unanimously adopted the report from the committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) who was asked by the 221st General Assembly (2014) to study categorical divestment from the oil, gas, and coal sector (also called the fossil-fuel industry) and make recommendations to the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The MRTI report includes the biblical, moral, and scientific imperatives for the church to work toward mitigating climate change. The MRTI report reaffirms the 2008 policy “The Power to Change” adopted by the 218th General Assembly on advocating for a move to renewable sources of energy production, however, the 2008 policy does not preclude owning fossil fuels in investment portfolios.

To address this, the MRTI report’s recommendations include asking the 222nd General Assembly to affirm a set of criteria of evaluating all companies including those in the oil, gas, and coal industry so that both the demand and supply side of energy production are addressed. These recommended criteria would be helpful to MRTI’s corporate engagement process because they include the potential provision to recommend divestment from a particular company who is not in compliance with the church’s policy.

Furthermore the MRTI report lifts up its engagements with numerous corporations on environmental responsibility resulting in hundreds of companies improving environmental policies and performance, particularly related to climate change. Through commitments by corporations to lower their emissions, increase energy efficiency, and use more renewable energy, the use of fossil fuels will decrease and demand for clean energy will increase. The MRTI recommended targeted engagement strategy would be more effective in mitigating climate change than categorical divestment from the fossil fuel industry.

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6284>