

## 2016 Shareholder Resolution CHEVRON

**Request: Request on Carbon Accounting Transition** 

## **WHEREAS:**

The current system for accounting for oil and gas reserve replacement has inherent limitations that impede management's ability to adapt to a climate constrained global energy market.

One of the primary metrics the market uses to assess the value of an oil and gas company is its reserve replacement ratio. (Cambridge Energy Policy Forum, March 2015). Reserve replacement is currently denominated in oil and gas units, incentivizing the production and development of new oil and gas reserves. Where annual oil and gas reserve replacement is not fully achieved, a company's stock market value is likely to be impaired and top company executives may not receive full incentive packages. This fuel-specific reporting metric does not allow management the latitude needed to optimize enterprise goals in a carbon-constrained environment.

Global governments have recognized the severe risks associated with a warming climate and the need to limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius or less. At COP 21, world leaders made significant commitments to reduce greenhouse emissions and initiated discussions to implement carbon pricing policies. As worldwide energy needs grow, it is becoming increasingly likely that such demand will be met with a much greater amount of renewable energy. Climate change induced transitions are already occurring in energy markets in the form of rapid energy efficiency increases, decreasing costs of renewables, and disruptive technology development such as electric vehicles.

The need for Chevron to develop new pathways in response to these transitions is highlighted by Analysts from Citi, Deutsche Bank, and Statoil, among others, which predict that global oil demand could peak in the next 10 to 15 years. As the 2014-15 oil market decline demonstrates, even a relatively small global oversupply of oil can substantially decrease the value of oil and gas companies.

Company management must have maximum flexibility to optimize production and development of energy reserves in line with these changing market conditions and opportunities. Further, management should, be incentivized to adopt a stable, long-term revenue path that includes replacing carbon holdings with renewable energy. The current system of oil and gas reserve replacement accounting hampers such flexibility and creates inappropriate incentives. Moving to a system that accounts for resources in energy units, such as the internationally accepted standard British Thermal Units (BTU), instead of oil and gas, will create a new measure of successful operation and incentivize a stable transition to a climate-appropriate resource mix. It will also help foster better company valuations by investors, creditors, and analysts, thus improving capital allocation and reducing investment risk.

## **BE IT RESOLVED:**

Proponents request that, by February 2017 and annually thereafter in a publication such as the annual or CSR report, Chevron quantify and report to shareholders its reserve replacements in BTUs, by resource category, to assist the Company in responding appropriately to climate change induced market changes. Such reporting shall be in addition to reserve reporting required by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and should encompass all energy resources produced by the company.