Attn: Roger Ferguson

TIAA

730 3rd Avenue

New York, NY 10017

 [date]

Dear Roger Ferguson,

I am a TIAA participant and a [professional position]. I’ve always been proud that my retirement is being handled by TIAA, which is famous for being a socially responsible investor.

I have been very unhappy to learn that my retirement savings are actually being invested in climate destruction. I understand that TIAA still has $10 billion invested in fossil fuels, which are an increasingly poor investment as well as catastrophic for our collective future. TIAA not only continues to have substantial fossil fuel exposure but even its Social Choice Equity Fund has millions invested with companies intent on drilling for new oil and gas, including Chevron, ConocoPhillips, and Kinder Morgan, even while scientists have been clear that we cannot afford to burn the fuels from the wells we have now. New drilling is exactly the worst path to take.

I was surprised and dismayed to discover that TIAA has also funded two fracked gas plants, one in New York and one in Ohio. Scientists have now shown clearly that fracked gas is nearly 100 times more powerful a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. These need to be shut down immediately.

I have learned, too, TIAA has financed land grabs that have driven indigenous people off their lands and contributed to deforestation at a moment when we urgently need more forests to capture the carbon that fossil fuels are throwing into the atmosphere.

How can TIAA call itself a responsible investor while thousands of other institutions, including the Episcopal Church, Cambridge University, the University of California System, the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, and the Republic of Ireland, have all committed to divestment from fossil fuels?

How can TIAA stay committed to oil and gas when these industries are doing so badly in the market? This sector finished dead last in the Standard & Poor’s 500 in 2018, and Moody’s downgraded the credit rating of Exxon Mobil from “stable” to “negative.” As entire regions move aggressively away from fossil fuels, oil and gas investments seem incredibly risky just on financial grounds, not to mention the massive scale of suffering they are bringing.

In short, I do not want my retirement invested in climate destruction at a moment when it is absolutely urgent that we invest in renewable and safe alternatives to fossil fuels.

With thanks in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[date of birth]

[phone number]

[email address]