



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

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**TREASURER WOODEN PRESENTS INVESTMENT FUND OPPORTUNITIES
IN EXCESS OF \$1 BILLION AUM, INCLUDING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY,
REAL ESTATE AND RISK MITIGATION HEDGE FUND STRATEGIES**

*IAC Members Approve Treasurer Wooden's CRPTF'S Domestic Proxy Voting Policies
to Advance Board Diversity, Climate Risk Mitigation, and Director Independence*

Hartford, CT – At today's Investment Advisory Council (IAC) meeting, Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden presents investment opportunities under consideration to infrastructure and real estate partnerships for the Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds (CRPTF). Treasurer Wooden also shared updates regarding the Office's Alternative Investment Fund Risk Mitigating Strategies (RMS) initiative, three changes to the CRPTF's domestic proxy voting policies, and gave an update on the CRPTF's performance year-to-date.

"In Connecticut, we are fortunate to be well positioned and continue to consider and make key investments on behalf of the CRPTF in the midst of a pandemic," said State Treasurer Wooden. "Despite the impact the pandemic has had on our economy, Connecticut's common cash pool remains strong and these investments opportunities are consistent with our long-term investment strategy."

Chief Risk Officer Kevin Cullinan presented the Office's RMS initiative, which included an overview of utilizing hedge funds as a tool for delivering both alpha and downside protection in an equity market sell-off. Following a search for an alternative investments consultant to advise on RMS, representatives from three finalist firms presented during the IAC meeting. The finalists were K2 Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Alternative Advisors, and The Rock Creek Group, LP.

"In today's complex investment environment, our ability to adjust our investment return assumptions and risk tolerance for the State's largest pension plan has enabled Connecticut to continue to take advantage of market opportunities," said Treasurer Shawn Wooden. "Although we could not have anticipated COVID-19 and the financial distress that it brought; early decisions to mitigate the variability and the volatility of investment returns over the long-term put us in a much better position compared to many other states and it remains critically important to continue to produce better risk adjusted returns for the CRPTF."

Principal Investment Officer Danita Johnson presented the BlackRock Global Renewable Power Fund III, (GRP III), a real asset investment opportunity in which Treasurer Wooden is considering an investment of up to \$100 million. GRP III's platform is one of the largest renewables-only, private markets platforms in the world. GRP III presents an opportunity to invest in a geographically diversified portfolio of renewable power generation infrastructure assets, with a focus on wind and solar energy, which would generate attractive cash yield with low correlation to other asset classes over the long-term for the CRPTF.

"We recognize that the future of energy is not in fossil fuels, and we're preparing and positioning our portfolios accordingly, said State Treasurer Wooden "Increased user acceptance coupled with the enhanced benefits of clean energy alternatives will drive energy sector returns and opportunities for decades to come."

Principal Investment Officer Danita Johnson also presented Stonepeak Infrastructure Fund IV, a core-plus/value added infrastructure investment opportunity in which Treasurer Wooden is considering an investment of up to \$125 million. This limited partnership investment seeks to acquire and manage high-quality, North American infrastructure assets, including renewable energy sources, in the transportation and logistics, power and utilities, midstream, communications, and water sectors and would generate cash yield while providing additional geographic, deal size and asset type diversification within the CRPTF.

Investment Officer Olivia Wall presented Rubicon First Ascent, LP (Rubicon I), a real estate investment opportunity in which Treasurer Wooden is considering an investment of up to \$50 million. Rubicon I is a non-core real estate investment strategy that invests exclusively in creative office and mixed-use properties in the San Francisco Bay Area and U.S. Pacific Northwest and presents an opportunity for the CRPTF to enhance total returns and portfolio diversification in a value-add strategy.

Christine Shaw, Assistant Treasurer for Corporate Governance & Sustainable Investments, presented the Treasurer's three changes to the CRPTF's domestic proxy voting policies. IAC members reviewed and approved the changes, which includes holding boards accountable for board diversity, climate risk and director independence. These are designed to increase shareholder value by ensuring that the State's proxy voting activities align with metrics that correlate with stronger company performance.

Finally, Interim Chief Investment Officer Steve Meier provided a market update and highlighted the CRPTF's performance year-to-date. Steve also presented historical positioning of the Office's portfolios, current asset allocation relative to strategic targets, and a review of the fourth quarter 2020 performance.

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About the Office of the State Treasurer

Under the leadership of Connecticut's State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars, while maximizing returns and minimizing risks for pension beneficiaries and operating at the highest professional and ethical standards. Through investments and cash management, the office continues to enhance the state's fiscal stability, financial literacy, college and disability savings, and its approach to leveraging business partnerships to combat social issues such as gun violence, climate change, and equal opportunity for economic growth. Learn more about the Office of the Treasurer [here](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Investment Advisory Council (IAC)

Treasurer Wooden is the principal fiduciary of the CRPTF and is an ex officio member of the State's independent IAC. The IAC is composed of five public members with investment experience that are appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership; three representatives of the teachers' unions; and two representatives of the state employees' unions. In addition, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management is an ex officio member. More information regarding the IAC and its responsibilities may be found [here](#).