



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:** Joe Rubino  
**Phone:** 307-777-5365  
**Email:** Joe.Rubino1@wyo.gov

## Secretary Gray Reiterates Opposition to all ESG Investments

**CHEYENNE, WY** – During the State Loan and Investment Board’s April 6, 2023 meeting in which it considered two proposals for investment of state funds, Secretary of State Chuck Gray voiced his strong opposition to approving any investment which considers environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

“I am deeply disturbed by the negative impact ESG has on the people of Wyoming, especially when it comes to safeguarding our State’s investments,” Secretary Gray said. “ESG is a woke clown show ideology. Not only does the radical ESG agenda target Wyoming’s legacy industries by divesting from the State’s mineral and agriculture sectors, but ESG investing also harms those whose money is being invested by considering factors which have *nothing* to do with maximization of financial return. As stewards of the State’s money, the State Loan and Investment Board must ensure we are protecting our investments and our core industries. If we do not, we would be ignoring our fiduciary duty to the State of Wyoming. Furthermore, we cannot be complicit in the ESG ideology by approving investments which are diametrically opposed to the People of Wyoming. Stated another way, we should never simply be ‘ESG-neutral.’”

“At all levels, I remain committed to pushing back on the woke clown show ESG agenda, which I view as diametrically opposed to our financial well-being and way of life. Whether it be in my role on the State Loan and Investment Board, or carrying out my duties as Secretary of State, I will continue to stand up against ESG.”

The State Treasurer must obtain the State Loan and Investment Board’s approval of the material terms of instruments governing investments in alternative assets before the Treasurer’s Office can make any such investment. Secretary Gray, along with the Governor, Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Treasurer, make up the State Loan and Investment Board.

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