

## **Investment Committee of the Middlebury College Board of Trustees Meeting**

### **Title: Middlebury College Ethical Endowment Resolution**

**Date: November 2012**

Whereas, in his address to the Middlebury community, the Dalai Lama stated, “You are the people that will shape the new world, [...] This century should be the century of peace;”

Whereas, the college mission statement reads: “The College's Vermont location offers an inspirational setting for learning and reflection, reinforcing our commitment to integrating environmental stewardship into both our curriculum and our practices on campus. Yet the College also reaches far beyond the Green Mountains;”

Whereas, the College “reaches far beyond the Green Mountains” in both its community and its investments;

Whereas, the College has a long-standing “commitment to integrating environmental stewardship into both our curriculum and our practices” through our pledge to become Carbon Neutral by 2016 as well as dozens of sustainability initiatives on campus;

Whereas, we recognize that investments in fossil fuel companies undermine the College’s commitment to Carbon Neutrality and do not reflect our mission statement in “integrating environmental stewardship into both our curriculum and our practices;”

Whereas, Middlebury College supports numerous Projects for Peace around the globe every year, serves as the world headquarters for the Davis Projects for Peace, and is consistently ranked among the top colleges that send students on to work in the Peace Corps after graduation;

Whereas, we recognize that being invested in companies that make weapons and engage in war undermines Middlebury College’s commitments and efforts to create peace in the world;

Whereas, divestment is a proven strategy for implementing an institution’s values and standing against unethical practices around the globe, divestment has been used in the 1980’s at Middlebury College to stand against South African Apartheid and in 2006 to stand against genocide in Darfur, and other liberal arts colleges have already divested from companies involved in the destruction of the planet and human life;

Whereas, Middlebury College’s endowment is currently invested in armament manufacturers, fossil fuel industries, and companies that support war efforts;

We, the Investment Committee of the Middlebury College Board of Trustees, hereby resolve that we will commit to screening our endowment to ensure that the College’s investments are in line with its mission and values;

We, the Investment Committee of the Middlebury College Board of Trustees, hereby resolve that we will ensure by March of 2013 that Middlebury College is no longer invested in fossil fuel companies, companies that produce weapons, or companies whose products are used directly in perpetuating violence and conflict.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee