

WOKE FINANCE IS HURTING MISSISSIPPIANS

Financial institutions are targeting key Mississippi industries, including agriculture and automotives.

- The world's largest money managers are targeting specific sectors—including agriculture and automotives—to force them to comply with the aspirational climate goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Members of initiatives like [NZAM](#) or [CA100+](#)—including [Northern Trust](#) and [PIMCO](#)—manage large amounts of citizens' retirement savings, including over [\\$16 billion](#) for PERS of Mississippi.
- These money managers are using their influence to pressure companies to get farmers to [electrify their farm vehicles](#), change their [fertilizer use](#), and move toward “[lower-carbon alternatives to meat and dairy products](#).”
- Moreover, climate groups say the U.S. needs to cut its per capita ruminant [meat consumption](#) in half by 2050.
- These policies are sure to harm Mississippi's [number one industry—agriculture](#).
- Climate Action 100+ also targets the automotive industry, [pushing auto companies to align](#) with the [IEA's Net Zero by 2050 scenario](#) by eliminating [sales of new internal combustion engine passenger cars by 2035](#).
- These policies, which are expected to result in a “[net loss of 14 million jobs](#),” will harm Mississippi's [auto industry](#). They will also lower demand for petroleum products, which are one of Mississippi's [top goods exports](#).

Money managers are also imposing ESG mandates on utilities like Mississippi Power (Southern Company). This makes the Magnolia State's electricity supply dependent on China.

- Money managers are pressuring power companies to “[align future capital expenditures with . . . limiting global warming to 1.5° C](#),” which means ramping up solar and wind energy to [nearly 70%](#) of electricity generation.
- This increases dependence on China, which controls [more than 80%](#) of all manufacturing stages of solar panels, [60%–80%](#) of wind energy components, and [up to 90%](#) of the processing of critical minerals, like rare earths.
- At the same time, these asset managers [pressure electric utilities to phase out gas and coal power by 2040](#), but coal and natural gas provided [over 72%](#) of Mississippi's net electricity generation as of November 2023.

Major banks are pressuring energy and auto companies with their lending practices.

- [JPMorgan Chase](#) and [Bank of America](#) have joined the [Net-Zero Banking Alliance](#), committing to slash their financed emissions in the power sector by 69%–70% by 2030, and by 41%–44% for auto manufacturing.
- These policies are sure to harm Mississippi's auto industry, which employs [more than 15,000 Mississippians](#).

How Mississippi can push back: Legislative Solutions

- **Protect Workers' and Families' Savings:** Mississippi can protect its pensioners by enacting a law, enforceable by the Attorney General or another executive branch official, that clarifies that the fiduciary duty of those managing Mississippi's pension funds is to consider only financial factors and financial purposes.
- **Protect Mississippi's Farmers:** Mississippi can empower the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce to investigate and take action when banks restrict services to farmers based on environmental policies. This will ensure that Mississippi's farmers are not frozen out of financing by banks with net zero commitments.
- **Protect Mississippi's Economic Interests:** Mississippi can enact a law, enforceable by the Attorney General or another executive branch official, prohibiting state contracts with companies that boycott or penalize other companies for engaging in industries disfavored by ESG activists, or for not meeting ESG criteria not required by law.

More Information on Woke Finance Organizations

United Nations-inspired climate initiatives push the Paris Agreement on U.S. companies.

In the past few years, numerous financial initiatives have arisen to coordinate asset managers, banks, and other financial institutions to comply with the aspirational climate goals of the Paris Agreement—even though the Paris Agreement is not legally binding on U.S. companies.

Some of the most notable groups are [Climate Action 100+](#), which is [partially led by](#) the UN-affiliated Principles for Responsible Investment, and the [Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero](#) (GFANZ), which is [grounded in the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign](#).

Climate Action 100+ and GFANZ have enormous sway, controlling trillions of dollars.

Climate Action 100+ (CA100+) members collectively managed [\\$68 trillion in assets](#) in 2023. CA100+ members target certain companies and pressure them to commit to “[\[t\]ake action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain . . . consistent with the Paris Agreement’s goal](#).” Their [sector strategies](#) target power companies, agriculture (food & beverage), aviation, steel, and [mining](#).

GFANZ [boasts](#) that its members represent “over \$130 trillion of private capital” that is “committed to transforming the economy for net zero.” Its [Net-Zero Banking Alliance](#) represents over 40% of global banking assets, [including](#) JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citi, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Overseen by the UN, these members [commit](#) to align their financed emissions with net zero by 2050 or sooner. Similarly, members of GFANZ’s Net Zero Asset Managers initiative (NZAM), including Blackrock and State Street, commit to “play [their] part to help deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement” by managing assets in line with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner and by [phasing out fossil fuels](#).

These groups are using Mississippians’ hard-earned savings to advance their own radical goals.

Asset managers influence company behavior by “engaging” with them one-on-one and by voting at annual meetings on shareholder proposals and board directors, using shares paid for with PERS of Mississippi funds. For example, Northern Trust, which manages [a quarter](#) of all PERS funds, voted in favor of the following activist shareholder proposals:

- proposals for [Chubb](#) and [Travelers](#) to disclose plans to “reduce the GHG emissions associated with [their] underwriting, insuring, and investment activities, in alignment with . . . net zero”;
- a proposal for [Charter Communications](#) to publish a “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) report with “quantitative data on workforce composition, and recruitment, retention, and promotion rates of employees by gender, race, and ethnicity”; and
- proposals for [Lowe’s, Walmart, and TJX](#) (parent of TJ Maxx, Marshalls, and HomeGoods) to report on risks posed by abortion restrictions and to provide a detailed strategy in response.

Northern Trust also assigns companies an “[ESG Vector Score](#)” [based on the TCFD’s Recommendations](#), which include [GHG-emissions disclosures and related targets](#).