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General Comment

I am strongly against this proposal. I encourage the DoL to consider the ethical ramifications of this proposal, which would allow investment with impunity in unethical businesses such as the tobacco industry, fossil fuel extraction, ballistics industry, and similar. I would hope that it would be self-evident why this is problematic. Disregarding "any collateral benefits the investment may also promote" is incredibly short-sighted, given that many of these industries, in particular fossil fuel industries, are anathema to a stable future economy, never mind ecological or social stability. Even if I were to concede that focusing on pecuniary benefits (investing in the renewable energy industry as an example, once again I expect the long-term benefits to be self-explanatory) presents a short-term risk (which is not a concession I intend to make, given the recent growth and success in that industry), the long-term benefits of energy autonomy and greenhouse gas reduction are incalculable. Privileging short-term financial gain over long-term ecological stability belies an apathy towards young persons, people of color, and those living in developing countries, who are the most at risk from climate-change related environmental stresses. It is an attitude that I hold in contempt.