# Not Your Average CD&A.

Addressing special circumstances



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# Introduction

With preparations for the 2025 proxy season in full swing, it's time to start thinking about whether (and how) you should update your proxy statement. The Compensation Discussion & Analysis (CD&A) always benefits from early - and extra - attention. An effective CD&A doesn't just comply with SEC rules; it also tells a story about the compensation committee's key decisions. This Thought Piece looks at CD&A disclosures that address circumstances that may not be applicable to all companies or that your company may not face every year. Since these disclosures may vary from the norm, they are likely to attract extra attention. That means transparency—in terms of both content and presentation—is critical. The following pages include a variety of approaches to consider.

# Response to Low Say-on-Pay Approval

A low say-on-vote is the topic most likely to keep the proxy team awake at night. Our <u>January 2023 Thought</u> <u>Piece</u> highlighted several types of disclosure that companies with a disappointing SOP vote should consider the following year, so we will only touch on a few new examples here.

Last year, <u>Equilar reviewed</u> proxy statements of 77 companies that attained less than 50% support for their say-on-pay proposals to see what, if anything, those companies did differently the following year. Although the most common response (by 51 companies) was to change performance metrics and weightings, the second most common response (by 28 companies) was to provide additional disclosure. (Most companies changed more than one thing.)

The companies that offered more information were smart. <u>Glass Lewis's 2024 Benchmark Policy Guidelines</u> say that "[i]n the absence of any evidence in the disclosure that the board is actively engaging shareholders on [their compensation concerns] and responding accordingly, we may recommend holding compensation committee members accountable." <u>ISS's 2024 Proxy Voting Guidelines</u> also call for more disclosure—about engagement efforts, specific shareholder concerns, and responsive actions taken—when a company's say-on-pay proposal earned less than 70% support the previous year. Although there is no way to prove causation, Equilar's study showed that 85% of the reviewed companies that supplemented their disclosure after a bad SOP vote had a successful vote the following year.

In the examples below, the companies offer thorough discussions that include how many investors they contacted and spoke with, how the Board participated in or learned about those engagements, specific feedback they received, and specific changes they made to their compensation programs. Say-on-pay results improved for the companies we feature here, with some doubling their support from the prior year.

### ServiceNow

ServiceNow's 2024 proxy tackled its response to disappointing say-on-pay results head-on. The proxy summary (at pages 5-6) includes one page about the company's shareholder engagement generally, and a second page that reviews specific shareholder concerns about the compensation program. These pages, from the beginning of the CD&A provide additional detail regarding shareholder feedback, and explain exactly how and why the compensation committee adjusted the incentive compensation plans. A graph a few pages later shows the significant increase in shareholder value during the CEO's four-year tenure to support the argument that his compensation is aligned with performance.



### Equifax

Equifax starts its CD&A executive summary with an "at-a-glance" engagement timeline and follows with a detailed accounting of what happened at each step in the engagement process and a description of shareholder concerns and the company's responses.



# AIG

The Governance section of the AIG proxy (at pages 34-35) has a general engagement discussion. The excerpt below, from the middle of the CD&A, is specific to compensation matters. It presents some of the same information as the general engagement discussion does, but in a different way that conveys key information without undue repetition.



# **Pitney Bowes**

Pitney Bowes included its shareholder feedback disclosure early in the CD&A. It provides a possible reason for their low SOP vote (a concurrent proxy contest), but also gives detailed information about investor concerns and the company's responses.

outstanding Company shares, to provide an opportunity to share their views or ask questions concerning matters covered in the Proxy Statement, including those relating to executive compensation and corp governance. We held meetings with nine stockholders collectively representing approximately 37% of outstanding stocks as O foctber 2023. Six of the nine meetings were attended by independent directors, remainder of our stockholders contacted either confirmed they had no concerns, or declined or did not respon our request for a discussion. Insights from the stockholders who attended an outreach session will continue to inform the Committee's dec process with respect to the design and disclosure of its executive compensation programs in 2024.		agement on Executive Con	npensation
below our expectations. Although there were no substantive changes in our 2022 executive compensation program, our advisory stockholder vote on executive compensation received less than majority support from voting stockholders, with 46.5% of votes cast in favor. In comparison, in the prior year, our advisory say-on- proposal received support from 03.% of the votes cast. In response to the 2023 say-on-pay vote, in additi stockholder outreach initiatives, the Committee and management engaged in a comprehensive review of executive company shares, to provide an opportunity to share their views or ask questions concerning matters covered in the Proxy Statement, including those relating to executive compensation and corp outstanding company shares, to provide an opportunity to share their views or ask questions concerning matters covered in the Proxy Statement, including those relating to executive compensation and corp outstanding cover stockholders collectively represented by independent directors, mainder of our stockholders contacted either confirmed they had no concerns, or declined or did not respon our request for a discussion. Insights from the stockholders who attended an outreach session will continue to inform the Committee's dea process with respect to the design and disclosure of its executive compensation programs in 2022.			g and fall of each year to seek their views
	below our expectations. Althou program, our advisory stockhold voting stockholders, with 46.5% proposal received support from s stockholder outreach initiatives,	gh there were no substantive change er vote on executive compensation rec of votes cast in favor. In comparison, i 30.3% of the votes cast. In response to the Committee and management eng	es in our 2022 executive compensation eived less than majority support from our in the prior year, our advisory say-on-pay o the 2023 say-on-pay vote, in addition to
process with respect to the design and disclosure of its executive compensation programs in 2024. Contacted Engaged Director Engagement	outstanding Company shares, to matters covered in the Proxy = governance. We held meetings outstanding stock as of Octobei remainder of our stockholders co	o provide an opportunity to share their Statement, including those relating to s with nine stockholders collectively of 2023. Six of the nine meetings were	r views or ask questions concerning the executive compensation and corporate representing approximately 37% of our attended by independent directors. The
41 shareholders either desimed the invitation to meet or did not respond	Top 50 Shareholders	Engaged 9 Shareholders	with independant directors attending

Board Responsive	ness and Compensation Desig	an Changes					
Below is a summary of the feedback we received from our stockholders after our 2022 and 2023 engagement conversations and the Committee's response, which includes changes made to our executive compensation program design for 2023 and 2024 in addition to the constructive stockholder feedback summarized below, multiple stockholders expressed support for our compensation design and plans. Spedifically, they recognized that the 2023 serv-oaw vote mark have been impacted by the prove context oncient and the same time.							
What we heard from stockholders:	Previous Plan Features	Committee Responsiveness: New Plan Features and Changes					
Recommendation to shift from cash to equity for long-term incentives	LTI mix in 2023 was 60% cash-based and 40% equity-based. The shift to constrain the second second second second second shorting of all years available for compensation and the impact granting equity has on stocholder dilution and our burn rate.	The 2024 LTI mix for executive officers will shift from 60% cash-based to the start of the start of the start of the continues to behave the impact on stockholder dilution and our burn rate. The temporary shift of the LTI mix towards cash in recent years has reduced our burn rate and dilution levels sufficiently to allow this shift back to equity.					
Eliminate the duplication of measures in the short- and long- term plans	The annual incentive included three financial measures, and both the annual and long-term incentives included Adjusted FCF.	Beginning in 2024, to simplify the plan and continue to drive desired strategic outcomes, we will reduce the number of financial messures used to determine annual incentives to two. Neither messure will be used in the long-term plan, thereby eliminating the duplication of financial messures across plans.					
Review peer group to ensure companies are aligned with Pitney Bowes	Current peer group includes companies with significantly higher market capitalization.	Effective 2024, the peer group was changed to eliminate companies with outsized market capitalizations; refer to discussion in "Peer Group for Assessing Compensation of NEOs" starting on page <u>71</u> related to peer group changes.					
The RSU performance threshold has a one- year performance period allowing for three years of vesting	Performance-based RSUs vest pro- rata over three years after an initial one-year performance period.	In 2024, for executive officers a majority of the LTI grant will consist of Performance Stock Units based 100% on financial measures with a 3-year Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") modifier.					

# Changes to the Compensation Program

Companies periodically revise their executive compensation programs for reasons that are unrelated to the SOP vote. It is important to explain those changes, the reasons they were implemented, and, if relevant, how they are being phased in, so shareholders can assess the new compensation program and the soundness of the compensation committee's decisions. A specific header that flags program changes helps readers find this key information.

# **International Paper**

International Paper explains the compensation committee's standard process for reviewing the compensation program and then outlines the most recent plan changes and their effective dates.

### 7/ Changes to Our 2023 Incentive Compensation Plans We recognize that incentive plans evolve over time and should respond to the changing needs and strategies of the Company. At a minimum of every live years, the Company conducts a comprehensive review of both the short term an

Company. At a minimum of every five years, the Company conducts a comprehensive review of both the short term and long-term incentive compensation plans to confirm our plans are competitive, while also ensuring the plan design aligns with the strategic goals of the business. The 2022 review included an analysis of best market practices for elements of both design and administration for each of the plans. Management conducted an assessment utilizing studies performed by three consulting firms: Willis Towers Watson, Exequity and FW Cook. Additionally, internal teams conducted extensive back-testing (testing design changes using historical data to understand implications).

The MDCC reviewed the detailed findings of the various studies at its May meeting. The MDCC then met in July and in September to discuss and line-tune the design and administration elements for each plan. In October 2022, the MDCC approved the changes described below to the Company's incentive compensation programs. These changes went into effect in January 2023, with the exception of the expansion of the MIP which was implemented effective July 1, 2022.

### 2023 Incentive Compensation Plan Changes

Change	Rationale	Effective Date
Expanded Eligibility	Expanded eligibility to ensure market competitiveness and to help with our recruitment and retention efforts; added approximately 4,750 employees	July 1, 2022
Name Change	Change name from the Management Incentive Plan (MIP) to the Annual Incentive Plan (AIP) to more accurately describe the eligible population	January 1, 2023
Adjustment of Metric Weightings	<ul> <li>Increased the weighting of the Revenue metric from 15% to 20% and decreased the weighting of the Cash Conversion metric from 15% to 10% to strengthen the focus on top-line profitable growth</li> <li>The EBITDA metric remains unchanged at a 70% weighting, maintaining a heavy emphasis on margin and improving profitable growth</li> </ul>	January 1, 2023
Name Change	Change name from the Performance Share Plan (PSP) to the Long-Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) to more accurately describe the plan providing more than one equity vehicle	Beginning with the 2023 LTIP grant
Add RSUs and Tiering of Vehicle Mix Between PSUs and RSUs	<ul> <li>Incorporate time-based RSU awards, in addition to the existing performance-based PSU awards, in the LTP to provide a more competitive offering through better alignment with market, which we believe will help with our recruitment and retention efforts</li> <li>Use of RSUs will be tiered with a much heavier performance orientation at senior management levels. This more appropriately places a higher risk/reward ratio on senior executives while increasing focus on retention deeper in the organization.</li> <li>LTP awards to senior executives, including the NEOs, will consist of 80% PSUs and 20% RSUs</li> </ul>	Beginning with the 2023 LTIP grant

# Starbucks

Starbucks explains why its annual incentive plan was adjusted and provides a graphic that makes it easy to see the differences between the 2023 and 2024 plans.



# PVH

PVH offers the reasons for recent plan design changes, linking some directly to company strategy. PVH also adds small graphics to show the updated performance metrics and weights.

Overview					
During 2023, we too and resulted in stror argets. Revenue, EE	ng overall financial performan BIT and EPS all improved from	complished important goals that continued ce. Our 2023 financial performance reflec n 2022. Tommy Hilfiger revenue increased gin expansion, a key metric of our PVH+ PI	ted progress against our PVH 4% compared to 2022, while	+ Plan	
ensure that the finar	ncial metrics used for the sho stockholder returns, we evolve	d on advancing the growth drivers and ach ort-term annual bonus awards and the long ed our compensation program as shown b	term PSU awards aligned exelow.	ecutive	
Program Element	Fiscal Year 2023 Design Changes	Rationale	Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Performance Metrics		
Annual bonus awards	Added corporate and business unit revenue as a performance metric	Revenue growth is a key goal of the PVH+ Plan	75% EBIT	25% Revenue	
			with a discretionary strategic modifier		
			Corporate NEOs' awards are based entirely on corporate results		
			Awards for NEOs who lead b units are based partly on co results and partly on the res their business units	rporate	
Performance share units	Replaced the EBIT performance metric with ROIC	The new ROIC metric focuses on building long-term value and recognizes the role of our most senior leaders in influencing capital investment decisions	50% 50% three-year ROIC relative 1		
		Removing the EBIT metric eliminates			

# Leidos

Leidos provides side-by-side comparisons of their 2023 and 2024 short- and long-term incentive plans, with graphics to illustrate how a newly-added modifier will work.





In 2024, we will refine our long-term incentive program by introducing Cumulative Adjusted EBITDA (\$) as a new metric which will replace revenue. This change is designed to encourage the acquisition of high-quality contracts over an extended period.

Channes	• •	1 T		Diam
Cnanges	το	Long-Tern	n Incentive	Plan

2023 P	rogram	2024 P	rogram	
Metric	Weight	Metric	Weight	
Revenue	50%	Cumulative Adjusted EBITDA Dollar (\$)	50%	
Relative Total Shareholder Return	50%	Relative Total Shareholder Return	50%	

The chart below shows our performance share plan payout scale considering the changes above:

	Payout	Cumulative Adjusted EBITDA(\$)*	Relative TSR Achievement
Threshold	50%	80% of 3-Year Target	30th Percentile of Peer Group
Target	100%	3-Year Target	50th Percentile of Peer Group
Maximum	200%	120% of 3-Year Target	75th Percentile of Peer Group

We will continue to utilize a negative Total Shareholder Return (TSR) cap. This means that if the Company's absolute TSR is negative, the payout will be limited to 100%. This structured approach ensures that the executives are incentivized based on the Company's performance against predetermined targets and industry benchmarks. It also aligns the interests of stockholders with the Company's growth objectives, promoting a long-term perspective and accountability in achieving financial and stockholder return goals.

# Netflix

The graphic below, which follows several pages of discussion about Netflix's shareholder engagement efforts and a note from the Chair of the Compensation Committee, makes it easy to see how the executive compensation program has evolved to rely more heavily on performance metrics and long-term equity awards. The next two pages of the CD&A add more detail and context for the most recent changes.



# Mondelez

Companies that have assessed their compensation programs and determined that no changes are necessary should consider mentioning that fact so readers don't worry that they are missing something.

#### 2023 COMPENSATION PROGRAM DESIGN CHANGES

We did not make material changes to our 2023 design relative to our design in 2022. Our program remains aligned with our business strategy and reflects the strength of ongoing shareholder feedback.

# Leadership Transitions and Related Compensation Decisions

It is the rare company that has the same five NEOs year after year after year. People retire, move on (voluntarily or otherwise), and may experience health problems. It helps to be upfront about these situations, and the beginning of the CD&A is a logical place to address them. Some transitions, such as a new CEO or a complete restructuring of the executive team, also may warrant a mention earlier in the proxy.

# Intuit

Intuit's leadership changes, which appear to have been amicable and part of ordinary course succession planning, were also flagged in a small callout box in the proxy summary. Compensation decisions for the departing NEOs were discussed in the same places in the CD&A as decisions for the remaining NEOs.



#### Leadership Succession

During fiscal 2023, we announced several management transitions. Ms. Clatterbuck stepped down from her role as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective July 31, 2023, and Sandeep Aujla assumed that role effective August 1, 2023. Effective September 5, 2023, Mr. Chriss stepped down from his role as Executive Vice President and General Manager, Small Business & Self-Employed Group and that role was assumed by Ms. Tessel, who served as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer through September 5, 2023. The fiscal 2023 compensation described in this proxy statement relates to Ms. Tessel's service in her previous role through July 31, 2023. All discussions of fiscal 2024 compensation decisions in this proxy statement for Ms. Tessel relate to her service as Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer through September 5, 2023 and, thereafter, to her role as Executive Vice President and General Manager, Small Business & Self-Employed Group. Alex Balazs, who previous yeared as Chief Technology Architect, assumed the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer through September 5, 2023.

These transitions were carried out consistent with our thoughtful and orderly approach to long-term leadership development and succession planning, which is overseen by our Compensation Committee and discussed by the full Board. This process includes annual discussions about the succession process and timeline, assessments of successor candidates for the CEO and other senior leadership positions, the leadership pipeline and evelopment plans for the next generation of senior leadership, and organizational development. The Compensation Committee also oversees chiss succession plans.

# **Kraft Heinz**

Kraft Heinz's planned CEO succession is addressed at the beginning of the CD&A, and also is discussed in a "Company Overview" section at the beginning of the proxy. Compensation for the new CEO is discussed in the same place within the CD&A as compensation for the other NEOs, but there is an additional section later in the document that explains how his compensation package differs from the compensation provided to his predecessor.



### 2024 Compensation Changes

#### **CEO Compensation Changes**

As described above, effective December 31, 2023, the first day of our 2024 fiscal year, Mr. Abrams-Rivera became our CEO. In structuring Mr. Abrams-Rivera's CEO compensation, the Compensation Committee took into consideration feedback received from stockholders regarding Mr. Patricio's CEO compensation when he joined the Company in 2019. Among other things, Mr. Abrams-Rivera did not receive any front-loaded equity awards, special enhanced equity grants, or other special incentives related to his elevation to CEO.

The Compensation Committee, in consultation with the compensation consultant, completed an analysis of Mr. Abrams-Rivera's total direct compensation package and approved the following for 2024. Mr. Abrams-Rivera's target total compensation is designed to be in the range of peer median:

2024
\$1,100,000
300%
35% match 2x multiplier
\$5,625,000
\$12,335,000

(a) Target Total Compensation assumes Mr. Abrams Rivera participates in the Bonus Investment Plan.

# **Cushman & Wakefield**

Cushman & Wakefield's planned CEO succession, internal promotion, and new executive hire are discussed at the beginning of the CD&A. Compensation for the retiring CEO and all of the new NEOs is discussed within the CD&A in the same place and manner as compensation for the continuing NEOs.



Mr. Forrester remained employed by the Company as a non-executive Strategic Advisor from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in order to help ensure a smooth transition of his duties and responsibilities to Ms. MacKay.

CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD | 2024 PROXY STATEMENT 35

# CVS

CVS discussed its two ordinary course leadership transitions and one departure at the very beginning of the CD&A. Compensation for the two new NEOs is covered in the same place in the CD&A as compensation for the continuing NEOs. There is an additional section that explains the contractual arrangements and one-time awards provided to the new NEOs.

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

# **Executive Transitions in 2023**

We believe that our passion, our purpose and our commitment to improving overall health starts at the top. We have a seasoned team of leaders with deep health care and technology expertise and a proven track record of building, scaling and growing profitable businesses. The following reflect changes to our NEOs in 2023.

The Board appointed Thomas F. Cowhey to serve as CVS Health's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective January 5, 2024. Mr. Cowhey had been serving as CVS Health's Interim Chief Financial Officer since October 13, 2023, and as Senior Vice President, Capital Markets since February 2022. The MP&D Committee approved Mr. Cowhey's compensation arrangements after reviewing market data provided by its independent compensation consultant. See "Agreements with Named Executive Officers" on page 72 for a summary of these arrangements.

Samrat S. Khichi joined the Company as Executive Vice President, Chief Policy Officer and General Counsel in February 2023 to lead the legal, compliance and government affairs teams. A summary of Mr. Khichi's employment arrangements and compensation can be found on page 72. The MP&D Committee approved Mr. Khichi's compensation arrangement after reviewing market data provided by its independent compensation consultant. See "Agreements with Named Executive Officers" on page 72.

Shawn M. Guertin, our former EVP, CFO and President of Health Services, has been on a personal leave of absence since October 13, 2023, and he is expected to leave CVS Health on May 31, 2024. Mr. Guertin and the Company did not enter into a separation agreement in connection with his January 2024 decision to step down and he will not receive separation pay.

### **Pitney Bowes**

To address an involuntary termination of its chief executive officer, Pitney Bowes used the beginning of the CD&A to introduce the new CEO and explain his compensation, and also to disclose the severance pay for the former CEO.



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COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### Mr. Lautenbach

In connection with his involuntary separation, Mr. Lautenbach and the Company entered into a Separation Agreement and General Release providing for the severance payments and benefits available under the Company's Severance Pay Plan, determined in accordance with the Company's general practices for determining severance pay, as well as benefits Mr. Lautenbach is entitled to upon retirement. Mr. Lautenbach received a cash severance payment in an amount equal to the sum of 78 weeks of both base salary plus his target annual incentive for 2023 based on actual achievement of performance-based targets which was payable at the time the 2023 annual incentive for 2023 based on actual achievement of performance-based targets which was payable at the time the 2023 annual incentive of his departure. The table below details the treatment of Mr. Lautenbach's unvested LTI awards under the reavering the oparation of the company of the company of the company and the table below details the treatment of Mr. Lautenbach's unvested LTI awards under the cave site to the company and and the company ne defined departation in a departation relation defined and applicable grant agreements. Refer to Form 8-K filed October 2, 2023 for a copy of the complete Separation Agreement and General Release.

#### Treatment of Mr. Lautenbach's Unvested LTI

LTI Grant Detail	(Units/Options)	Treatment at Termination
Non-Qualified Stock Options (NSOs) granted 2021	101,293	Vested at separation.
RSUs granted 2021	52,988	Vested at separation.
CIUs granted 2021	4,230,000	Will continue vesting and be paid based on the actual multiplier determined by achievement of predefined objectives at the end of the three-year performance period. Note: The 2021 ClUs vested in February of 2024 at a value of \$2,622,000.
CIUs granted 2022	4,230,000	Will continue vesting and be paid based on the actual multiplier determined by achievement of predefined objectives at the end of the three-year performance period.
RSUs granted 2023	643,836	Forfeited as not outstanding at least one year.
CIUs granted 2023	4,230,000	Forfeited as not outstanding at least one year.
		55

# AIG

AIG addressed transitions due to the illness and then death of the CFO, as well as the termination of an interim CFO, at the start of the CD&A.

#### Chief Financial Officer Transitions

During 2023, three individuals held the role of Principal Financial Officer at AIG Parent, as described below.

- On January 1, 2023, Mr. Fitzsimons was serving as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In January 2023, Mr.
   Fitzsimons began a temporary medical leave of absence. Effective July 1, 2023, Mr. Fitzsimons left the Company for medical reasons. Mr. Fitzsimons passed away on October 27, 2023.
- Mr. Lyons was appointed Interim Chief Financial Officer effective January 10, 2023, in addition to his role as Executive Vice
  President, Global Chief Actuary and Head of Portfolio Management. On January 24, 2023, we terminated Mr. Lyons' employment
  after we became aware that he violated his confidentiality/non-disclosure obligations to the Company. These violations were
  unrelated to our financial statements, financial reporting generally and related disclosure controls and procedures, or reserves.
- Ms. Purtill was appointed Interim Chief Financial Officer effective January 25, 2023. When Mr. Fitzsimons stepped down from his
  position due to medical reasons, Ms. Purtill was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on a permanent
  basis, effective July 1, 2023.

# Southern Company

An early section of the CD&A includes a flowchart to show how Southern Company implemented several planned executive transitions, including at the CEO level. This is followed by an overview of the compensation decisions for the new and departing CEOs, a summary of the company's performance against key metrics, and two pages that demonstrate how CEO compensation is aligned with financial and environmental performance.

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### **CEO Compensation Decisions**

- The Committee approved target compensation for Mr. Womack during its regular annual review in February 2023, taking
  into account his role as President of the Company. His base salary increased by approximately \$\$5,000, his annual
  Performance Pay Program (PPP) target opportunity increased by 20% of base salary, and his long-term incentive (LTI)
  target opportunity increased by 25% of base salary.
- Upon his promotion to CEO in May 2023, the Committee approved an updated compensation package for Mr. Womack. A significant portion of Mr. Womack's total direct compensation as CEO consists of LTI award opportunities, consistent with our historic pay practices described below and taking into account the target compensation of CEOs in our peer group. Effective May 24, 2023, his adjusted compensation elements were:
- Base salary: \$1,450,000
- 2023 PPP target: 130% of base salary (increased from 100% and pro-rated to reflect his tenure as CEO during 2023)
- 2023-2025 LTI target: Mr. Womack received a promotional LTI grant equal to 665% (increased from 300%, taking into
  account his increased base salary, and pro-rated for his tenure as CEO during 2023)

#### **Retired Chairman Compensation Decisions**

- In setting Mr. Fanning's target compensation for 2023 during its regular annual review, the Committee did not adjust the Retired Chairman's base salary, PPP target opportunity or LTI target opportunity from the 2022 amounts in light of the CEO transition occurring during the year.
- nection with his transition from CEO to Executive Chairman, the Committee approved a reduction in base salary of \$340,000 effective May 24, 2023.

#### 2023 Performance Against Key Compensation Metrics

- We delivered strong adjusted financial and operational performance in 2023.
- Exceeded our 2023 EPS goal; Payout at 146%
- Exceeded our 2023 operational goals, including safety, customer satisfaction

#### Exceeded our peer group on the 2021-2023 TSR goal; Payout at 180%

Exceeded our 2021-2023 Return on equity goal; Payout at 200%

Achieved 89% of our 2021-2023 GHG quantitative cumulative MW change ta performance on the qualitative modifier for advancing the energy portfolio o

**Compensation Discussion and Analysis** 

#### **2023 Named Executive Officer Transitions**

March

**Jim Kerr** becomes Chairman, President & CEO, Southern Company Gas

In January 2023 we announced and throughout 2023 we successfully executed a number of leadership transitions that facilitated business continuity across the Southern Company system and showcased the depth of our talent throughout our leadership ranks

#### **Timeline of Key NEO Transitions**

January **Tom Fanning** Chairman, President & CEO, Southern Company

Chris Womack Southern Company

> Kim Greene becomes Chairman, President & CEO, Georgia Power



Chris Womack . ent & CEO, ecomes President outhern Company

**Tom Fanning** becomes Executive Chair of Southern Company Board

Chris Womack President & CEO, Southern Company

December

Tom Fanning retires fro Company

Kim Greene Chairman, President & CEO, Southern Company Gas

Chris Womack

Chairman, Presiden CEO, Georgia Powe

# Jim Kerr

EVP, Chief Legal Officer & Chief Compliance Officer, Southern Company

ident &

Dan Tucker and Steve Kuczynski continued in their key roles throughout the year

#### 2023 CEO and Retired Chairman Compensation Decisions

In consultation with its independent consultant, Pay Governance, the Committee continued to carefully evaluate the executive officer compensation of peer utility companies to develop reasonable ranges of total compensation for similarly situated executives. The Committee took into account the relative revenue, market capitalization and complexity of each peer as compared to the Company.

Southern Company is considerably larger than the majority of the companies in the industry. Compared to the peer group used to set compensation decisions, Southern Company ranks at the 97th percentile when comparing net annual revenue and at the 95th percentile when comparing market capitalization.

C	20	60	60	80 100
Net Revenue*				97th Percentile
Market Capitalization**				95th Percentile
	Souther	ern Company's pos	ition	
* Based on the four fiscal quar	ers ended prior to December 31. 2	023 and publicly availa	ble as of March 1. 2024	

\*\* As of December 31 2023

The peer group used for the Committee's compensation decisions is described in more detail on page 72.

# Letters from the **Compensation** Committee

Based on Labrador's recent survey of 100 companies (a subset of the S&P 250 and cross-section of industries), approximately 17% included a compensation committee letter in their most recent proxies. Although it is not common practice, including a letter from the compensation committee may provide a good vehicle for previewing the compensation program, especially if there were recent changes, and for discussing leadership transitions and any special bonuses or awards granted. In the year following a disappointing SOP vote, the letter can delve into the committee's engagement efforts and approach to feedback.

# Letter from Our Compensation and **Human Capital Committee**

#### Dear Stockholders,

As the members of the Compensation and Human Capital Committee, we are responsible for overseeing the design and implementation of a competitive executive compensation program that furthers the interests of stockholders and demonstrates strond pay-for-performance alignment. This responsibility includes listening to and considering your views on executive compensation. We also help oversee management's efforts to develop and implement a robust human capital executive compensation. management program.

The Compensation Discussion and Analysis, or CD&A, that follows describes what we pay, why we pay it and how we made our executive compensation decisions in 2023. Our compensation philosophy is intended to align the interests of our executives and stockholders through a transparent and rigorous compensation program.

and socknooles innough a transparent and right compensation program. We incentivise our executives by offering a combination of performance-based and fixed compensation, with a significant portion at risk in the form of performance-based equity awards. The value of these awards depends upon the value of our common stock, which we believe further aligne sexcutives fitnerests with those of our stocholders. We believe this compensation philosophy also motivates our talented management team, promotes the execution of our business strategy manner that focuses on long-term stockholder value creation, encourages prudent risk management and enhances retentio our executive team in a competitive marketplace for talent.

- The key objectives of our compensation program include:
   Aligning executive compensation with the interests of our stockholders
   Linking a significant portion of executive compensation to the achievement of key financial and strategic goa · Providing a transparent compensation program with objective performance hurdles with a substantial possibility of not
- being achieved Evaluating hurdles across multiple metrics and performance periods, including 3-year relative total stockholder return, or TSR, performance

· Limiting discretionary compensation components while maintaining flexibility to compensate for individual performance In 2023, base salary increases for our named executive officers were limited to increases in connection with certain promotions, and we did not increase the target-level opportunities under the short-term incentive plan (STIP), our annual cash homus program, except in connection with one promotion. We increased named executive officer's target-level long-term incentive plan (ITIP) opportunities in 2023 to better align equity compensation with the equity compensation of similarly-situated executives at peer companies.

Our executive compensation program payout results reflect our pay-for-performance philosophy. The objective metrics under our 2023 STIP were achieved at above-target levels, aligning executive bonus payouts with the Company's financial, on operational and 25 site were accurately accurately and a site of the second se

We believe that our compensation program provides compelling incentives for our executives, which in turn benefits our stockholders by driving our business strategy and goals. We also believe our stockholders' interests are best served over it by a balanced compensation program that takes a long-term, holistic view of our business strategy and emphasizes the dri of long-term value creation.

#### **Compensation and Human Capital Committee Report**

We reviewed and discussed the CD&A with management, as well as the Compensation and Human Capital Committee's independent compensation consultant and legal advisors. Based upon this review and discussion, we recommended to the Board that the CD&A be included in this proxy statement.

COMPENSATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The foregoing report of the Compensation Committee is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC and is not incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the Exchange Act, whether made before or after the date of this proxy statement and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filing.

# Healthpeak

Healthpeak's Compensation and Human Capital Committee used its letter to highlight the objectives of the compensation program and the changes in the NEOs' compensation amounts from the prior year, as well as to summarize results under the longand short-term incentive plans.

### Johnson & Johnson

The letter from J&J's Compensation & Benefits Committee focuses on recent changes in the company's business and on the committee's process for reviewing the compensation program and results for the year. The letter also notes the payout levels for the long- and short-term incentive programs.



# CSX

The letter from CSX's Compensation and Talent Management Committee starts by emphasizing the committee's responsiveness to shareholders and to employees, and then discusses recent changes to the compensation program and the reasons for those changes. The letter then shifts to the committee's responsibility for human capital management, and reviews the company's successes under the leadership of the recently appointed CEO.

Letter from the Compensation and Talent Management Committee



We, the Compensation and Talent Management Committee (the "Committee"), are dedicated to fostering a pay-for-performance culture that attracts and retains outstanding talent as we seek to be the best-run raincad in North America while delivering outstanding outsomer service. Our shareholders are our partners in this endeavor and we remain committed to ongoing engagement and providing clear explanations of the Company's executive compensation and talent management programs. A critical goal throughout our decision-making process is to actively listen to what our stakeholders have to say.

As detailed in our 2022 and 2023 Proxy Statements, we have made a concerted effort to communicate with shareholders in recent years to address any concerns they may have regarding our executive compensation program. We are thankful for this dialogue. The feedback we received reinforces our belief in "pay-for-performance," where the right incentives drive actions that lead to the Company's success and create lasting value for our shareholders. Our job is to routinely review and update the compensation program to make sure it aligns with our objectives, fits the Company strategy and follows best governance practices. Shareholder insights play a vital role in this review process.

Regarding talent management, we have closely examined employee feedback—including input provided through the Company's employee surveys—lo gauge the pulse of our cultural priorities. We cannot overstate how important this employee feedback is. Culture is central to strategy at CSX. We firmly believe that a strong corporate culture not only promotes employee health, safety and well-being, but also inspires employees to deliver great service to our customers, creating value for all of our stakeholders.

In 2023, we were keenly focused on gathering and reflecting on feedback from our many stakeholders. We listened, making changes where necessary and supporting the Company as it continues to create long-term value through our compensation and talent management programs. The Company remains committed to its tried-and-lested operating model centered around service, efficiency, safety and people to drive profitable growth, leading to solid results last year as detailed in the CD&A section below. Our commitment to ongoing stakeholder engagement is unwavering.

#### **Incentivizing Growth**

The Committee oversees the Company's compensation strategy and policies. Over time, we have developed an executive compensation program that effectively attracts and rewards executives for exceptional performance that creates shareholder value. The program reinforces our culture of pay-for-performance, ensuing a significant part of each executive's total earnings are tied to their results. We have also introduced incentive plans with ambitious goals to drive strong financial performance, promote sustainable growth and reflect our environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy and our shareholders' ESG expectations.

Our shareholders told us they support our compensation philosophy and program design, but have questions about certain benchmarks in our incentive plans, especially how they encourage growth. To that end, we have prioritized providing more transparent communication—particularly regarding Economic Profit (formely called CSX Cash Earnings or CCE), a measure designed to inspire investment in profitable growth projects. This factor traditionally has had a direct, strong correlation to increased stock value. We will continue evaluating the suitability of our incentive plan measures and maintain open communication—babut these measures.

In addition, we have made changes to our short-term incentive plan for executives, adding more precision to how we evaluate each executive's performance. We have replaced operating ratio with operating margin within our short-term incentive compensation plan, effective for 2024. This shift is meant to foster a mindset geared towards growth by focusing on improving profit margins through service-oriented business strategies, while still being mindful of costs and asset usage. We want to emphasize great customer service, together with cost control and effective use of assets, as the keys to higher profitability.

For over a decade, our short-term incentive plan has allowed us to adjust bonus payouts up or down based on how well we think someone has done their job. After our 2022 Annual Meeting, we had in-depth discussions with our shareholders about this plan and the use of discretionary directment bened on identification performance. Becameted by these discretionary us decided their

Report of the Compensation and

**Talent Management Committee** 

these discretionary adjustme decide whether to adjust a t goals we set at the start of 1 benefit our customers and in are made. After evaluating p for any NEO.

We hope these changes, a providing below in the CD&/ the Committee anytime by Florida 32202

an capital strategies. This involves a range of initiatives, from hiring and ace culture and ensuring the organization runs effectively. We recognize the retain talented individuals who are committed to our corporate goals.

ackages and rewarding career opportunities, all within a supportive and ring quality employee benefits, fostering professional development, sive and active engagement with employees and amplifying our positive

rturing a ONE CSX culture, one that drives employee engagement, to cultivate a team that values collaboration and open communication ience for everyone. It is essential to our strategy for providing great

ee surveys. These are vital for assessing employee sentiments and feedback seriously, and it plays a huge part in shaping the talent

ey indicators, the Committee recognized in 2022 that CSX needed a r, and leveraging the strong talent strategy, Joe Hinrichs was brought

2022, the Company was confronting a major labor union dispute and cant rail strike in two decades was imminent, customer service metrics ing new to the organization, Mr. Hinrichs was tasked by the Board to

inary strides in the 18 months that followed. One of his most notable if paid sick leave, which had been a sticking point during national leaders to devise solutions that would offer craft employees paid sick lunions representing the majority of the Company's union-represented hed similar argements.

work experience and quality of life for front-line employees by modifying ed policy is more flexible, allowing employees opportunities to improve

Under his leadership, CSX transformed into the rail service industry insportation Board (the "STB"). The STB released CSX from the 23, acknowledging the Company's improved service reliability and its. CSX remains the only Class I railroad exempt from this requirement ierior service performance.

rovement under Mr. Hinrichs' leadership, largely attributed to his efforts approval ratings on Glassdoor increased from 30% to 72%, and CSX 10 points from March 2022 to March 2023. Mr. Hinrichs' regular, ly engages with employees to understand their workplace experience, to bits neeting entrone.

> olume in 2023, thanks to the leadership earned him the RS) in his first year at CSX. om Loop Capital in 2023.

> he last business day before reflecting the confidence of ust operational performance, > Company is advancing its

dership. In recognition and his target compensation by orward to seeing CSX reach

The Compensation and Talent Management Committee has reviewed and discussed the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section with management. Based on its review and these discussions, the Compensation and Talent Management Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" section be included in this Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference in the 2023 Annual Report on Form 10-K for fling with the SEC.



### Intel

Intel's Talent & Compensation Committee used its letter to explain how its compensation decisions including salary and bonus reductions for executives—reflected a difficult economic environment and served the company's cost-reduction goals.

# Letter from the Talent and Compensation Committee

#### Dear Fellow Stockholders,

The Talent and Compensation Committee of the Board (Compensation Committee), along with the entire Board, was pleased to see our Say-on-Pay vote pass with 91.2% support at the 2023 Annual Stockholders' Meeting. This result followed a detailed and comprehensive series of engagements with our stockholders, culminating in responsive changes to our executive compensation programs that we introduced in late 2022. We are confident tl this result indicates that our executive compensation programs meet investor expectations, and we commit to continue including the feedback of our stockholders we design and employ our executive compensation programs.

We would like to share our perspective on t environment in which we operated during fi year 2023 and how that impacted our compensation decisions and incentive outcomes, which will provide important context for the full Compensation Discussic and Analysis that follows.

#### **Strong Performance in a Challenging Environment**

Intel faced a difficult operating and macroeconomic environment entering 2023, with multiple factors driving uncertainty and heightened risk globally. We anticipated continued impacts on Intel both directly and in the context of these broader forces on our customers and suppliers. Given the challenges faced by the company and our industry due to material weakness in our PC and data center markets driven by industry-wide inventory corrections, the

#### Positioning Intel for the Long-Term

Cost reduction and cash preservation were two of our top strategic goals for the year. In an effort to reduce costs across the company in 2023, we made the difficult decision to implement reductions to our 2023 employee compensation. These reductions were designed to most significantly impact our executives. Notably, these included a 25% base salary reduction for our CEO and a 15% base salary reduction for our other NEOs, for the period from March 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. These reductions also had the effect of lowering 2023 target bonuses for our executives, which are calculated as a function of base salary paid. In addition, the Board decided to temporarily reduce the cash retainer portion of our directors' fees by 25%, and our Board Chair Frank Yeary also decided to temporarily reduce his additional Chair cash retainer fee by 25%. Effective October 1, 2023, we restored our NEOs' base salaries and director cash retainers to the levels in place at the beginning of the year In recognition of the efforts and sacrifices of our employees, we granted "Austerity RSU" awards to impacted employees (other than the CEO) in December 2023. The Compensation Committee believes that these actions, in the aggregate, have positioned the company to continue building on our strong momentum, by being thoughtful about our overall spend while also investing in the talent that is going to drive Intel forward.

#### **Continued Engagement with Stockholders**

We were pleased to see high support for our 2023 Say-on-Pay proposal. We believe this is a direct function of our history of stockholder engagement and our consideration of stockholder concerns when designing our executive compensation programs. Following the 2023 Annual Stockholders' Meeting, we again conducted comprehensive stockholder engagement on executive compensation and other key topics, reaching out to and meeting with a significant number of our institutional stockholders. As in years past, our Board Chair, Frank Yeary, and/or our Compensation Committee Chair, Dion Weisler, led a substantial number of these meetings. The feedback received in these meetings was shared with the full Compensation Committee and the Board, and served as valuable input for Board discussions. As we continue to make progress with our IDM 2.0 strategy, we see compensation as a key component in attracting, retaining, and incentivizing our executives talent. The talent market remains fiercely competitive, and a strong compensation design is an important factor in the retention of key talent to deliver results for our stockholders. We look forward to our ongoing dialogue and maintaining executive compensation programs that are responsive to your feedback and aligned with your expectations.

#### Sincerely,

#### The Talent and Compensation Committee



Dion J. Weisler Chair



**James J. Goetz** Member



Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Member



Barbara G. Novick Former Member (through January 31, 2024)

### Southern Company

The Southern Company's Compensation Committee makes a practice of including a letter at the beginning of the CD&A each year. The most recent letter focused on the goals of the compensation program and the company's successful leadership transitions, and explained how the committee gathered and responded to shareholder feedback.

# Letter from the Compensation and Talent Development Committee

#### To our Fellow Stockholders:

Southern Company achieved great things in 2023. We are proud to have placed into commercial operation the first newly constructed nuclear unit in the U.S. in over 30 years. Our workforce of 28,100 proved once again that we are not afraid to accomplish hand tasks. See page 6 for an overview of our 2023 Company performance. In addition to the successful CEO transition from Tom Fanning to Chris Womack in May 2023, the Board executed a management transition plan showcasing our decades-long investment in our strong talent pipeline and robust succession planning process. This seamless leadership transition facilitated business continuity, created stability and enabled positive growth for the Company.

#### **Compensation Committee Oversight and Engagement**

During 2023, we remained actively engaged in our oversight responsibilities for executive compensation, leadership and talent development and human capital management. We implemented compensation programs that:

- Drive long-term value creation for our stockholders;
- Reflect feedback from our ongoing stockholder engagement program;
- · Respond to the dynamic environments in which our executives and workforce operate;
- Support of the Company's plan to reduce GHG emissions and meet its interim and net zero goals; and
- Align with our compensation beliefs.

The five independent Directors serving on our Committee bring a diverse range of qualifications, attributes, skills and experiences to our decision making. We are committed to aligning pay with performance each year; hiring, developing and retaining a diverse pool of talent; and promoting alignment of our compensation program with the Company's long-term strategy and stockholders' expectations.

Building on the foundation we created over the past several years, we continued our strong and active involvement in stockholder outreach, which includes independent Director participation in key engagements. Independent directors directly engage with stockholders and receive regular updates from management on our robust stockholder engagement program. Below is an overview of the Committee's key focus areas <u>over the nast year</u>

#### Succession Planning

- In addition to the successful CEO transition, we reinforced our focus on succession planning for other members of the senior management team. We continu to improve and refine our robust talent pipeline to develop our visionary and capable leaders
- Our Committee met and discussed senior leadership talent and the overall company-wide talent management process throughout the year, and facilitated regular Board engagement with high potential employees.

#### **CEO Performance Assessment**

- We reviewed and approved the performance goals for the CEO and the Retired Chairman for 2023 and engage in ongoing performance assessment dialogue througho the year.
- Utilizing an independent third-party, we facilitated the performance review of the CEO and Retired Chairman with the independent members of the Board.

#### Compensation Metrics that Support GHG Reduction Goals and Sustainable Business Practices

- We continue to receive positive feedback from our stakeholders on our approach to aligning a meaningful portion of key executives' long-term equity incentive award to the Company's 2030 and 2050 GHG emission reductions goals. We've continued this practice since 2019.
- Based on investor feedback, the Committee incorporated additions of energy efficiency and load flexibility/ demand response MWs with the 2024-2026 award and enhanced stretch goals in the quantitative metric.
- We remained committed to incorporating operational metrics in the annual incentive compensation program that include safety, work environment, supplier diversity, customer satisfaction and other measures to support our sustainable business model.

#### Human Capital Management

- The Committee reviewed regular updates on human capital matters and workforce risks, including labor relations management, physical and mental wellbeing initiatives and specific initiatives for employee recruitment, engagement and retention.
- We reviewed reports on the recently launched Leadership Master Class Series, a reimagined and modern corporate university, that facilitates targeted development of our Company's leadership.
- In response to the dynamic business environment, we continue to demonstrate innovation and flexibility in adapting our total rewards offering to meet the diverse needs of our employees and to attract and retain talent.

#### **Report of the Compensation Committee**

We met with management to review and discuss the CD&A. Based on that review and discussion, we recommended to the Board that the CD&A be included in this proxy statement.

Je O. Jen Janathi Akella Indi M from Perlei & James Work John D. Johns Dr. Janaki Akella Donald M. James Dale E. Klein E. Jenner Wood III CILATRI

# Definitions of Pay that Differ from the Summary **Compensation Table**

CD&A's can be confusing. Companies talk about the "target" compensation they awarded and the "actual" compensation their NEOs received, or about "realizable" and "realized" compensation, and usually the numbers provided with that disclosure differ from the numbers in the Summary Compensation Table. A section that explains terms and calculations can help readers understand how the compensation committee approaches its decisions.

# **Avalon Bay**

For each NEO, Avalon Bay provides a bar graph showing target pay and realized pay, and explains the relevance of these calculations to the compensation committee's evaluation of pay and performance alignment. The narrative that precedes the graphics explains why the realized pay numbers may vary from the numbers that appear in the Summary Compensation Table.



Cash bonus reflects the cash awards made in February 2024 with respect to performance under the annual cash bonus program in 2023 in the following amounts: Mr. Schall - \$2,040,600, Mr. O'Shea - \$1,171,513, Mr. Birenbaum - \$1,221,302, Mr. Breslin - \$1,264,587 and Mr. Schulman - \$663,349.

2023 earned annual stock bonuses in the following amounts: Mr. Schall \$1,787,400, Mr. O'Shea - \$1,021,720, Mr. Birenbaum - \$1,031,000, Mr. Breslin - \$1,138,000 and Mr. Schulman \$517,500. Mr. Schulman also received a discretionary stock grant of \$250,000. These bonuses were in the form of time-based restricted stock issued in February 2024 for performance in 2023 and will be reflected in the 2025 proxy statement, Mr. Schall elected to receive 25% of his 2023 earned stock bonus in the form of a stock option, and accordingly 25% of the amount for Mr. Schall was issued in the form of a stock option in lieu of restricted shares of stock.

For performance awards, target value reflects the dollar value used by the Company in February 2021 to determine the target number of 2021 – 2023 performance awards in the Second units granted to the NEO. For performance awards, realized value reflects the February 2024 settlement value of the 2021-2023 performance awards (which consists of unrestricted shares and a dividend equivalent cash payment on those shares) in the following amounts: Mr. Schall - \$5,570,422, Mr. O'Shea - \$1,782,405, Mr. Birenbaum - \$2,005,612, Mr. Breslin - \$2,005,612 and Mr. Schulman - \$921,101. The value of the unrestricted shares received by each NEO upon settlement of the 2021-2023 performance awards was calculated using a price of \$172.11 per share, the closing price of the Company's common stock on the NYSE on February 13, 2024.

# Raytheon

Raytheon includes a short explainer to help readers understand why the CD&A numbers for the NEOs' "total direct compensation" vary from the numbers in the Summary Compensation Table. This designed callout draws the readers' attention to how the compensation committee views long-term incentive awards. In particular, while SEC rules require the Summary Compensation Table to include the value of long-term awards in the year they are granted, Raytheon's Human Capital & Compensation Committee considers these grants, which are made at the start of the fiscal year, to be part of the prior year's compensation since award values are based on the committee's assessment of that year's performance.

#### What is "total direct compensation?"

In contrast to the Summary Compensation Table (on page 68), our discussion of CEO and NEO pay decisions in this proxy (pages 56-61) uses a measure called "total direct compensation," which the Committee believes provides a more accurate picture of its annual pay decisions and reflects its most recent assessment of Company, business unit and individual performance, and the competitive market for each NEO's role. Total direct compensation includes the 2023 salary (effective at the end of the year), 2023 annual incentive for the completed performance year and long-term incentives as described below.

#### How the Committee Views LTI Award Values

Total Direct Compensation	Includes the value of LTI awards approved by the Committee and granted in February 2024.	Award values relate to the Committee's assessment of 2023 performance and the competitive market pay for each NEO's role.
Summary Compensation Table	Includes the grant date fair value of LTI awards granted in February 2023.	Award values relate back to the Committee's assessment of 2022 performance and the competitive market pay for each NEO's role.

The SEC rules require the LTI awards granted in February 2023 to be reported in the Summary Compensation Table in this 2024 Proxy Statement, with a different valuation methodology than we use for total direct compensation. In addition, the compensation values reported in the Summary Compensation Table include certain elements (e.g., changes in pension values, which are impacted by assumptions, such as interest rates, and other formulaic compensation and benefit components) that we exclude from total direct compensation because they are not tied to performance and fall outside the scope of the Committee's annual pay decisions.

# Cognizant

Cognizant provides a comprehensive explanation of the terms "target direct compensation," "SEC compensation" (meaning the amounts reported in the Summary Compensation Table), and "realized compensation," and then explains how those terms apply to each element of the NEOs' pay. Finally, for each NEO, the company describes, and shows in a graph, the three types of compensation.



# Oceanfirst

Oceanfirst uses text and a bar graph to explain why the CEO's realizable pay for the past three years, taking into account the current value of his equity awards, is less than his target pay. The disclosure also states that the Compensation Committee regularly reviews realizable pay (base salary, bonus, and equity awards) to determine whether the compensation program is working as intended.

#### **Realizable Pay Analysis**

The Compensation Committee regularly reviews actual pay outcomes of past compensation decisions, using a "realizable pay analysis," to evaluate pay and performance alignment. This analysis helps us assess if our compensation program is working as intended and if adjustments are needed to drive the Company's pay for performance philosophy.

This section explains how the CEO's realizable pay compares to his target pay over the three-year period ending December 31, 2023. For this purpose, "target pay" is the sum of base salary, target annual cash incentive, and the target dollar value of long-term incentive awards at the time of grant. In other words, the CEO's target pay is what he could earn if the Company achieved all of the incentive performance objectives at target. Realizable pay is the current value of CEO compensation, which is the sum of base salary, actual bonus payouts, and current value of time-based equity awards and current value of performance-based equity awards (based on actual performance if known, or target if performance period is not completed). Equity awards are valued using a share price as of December 31, 2023.

As shown below, the CEO's realizable pay was 6% below target for the three-year period ending December 31, 2023, reflecting the Company's performance during that period. The Committee believes this analysis confirms the Company's strong correlation between pay and performance.



# Performance Tracking for In-Flight Awards

When investors are evaluating a company's most recent long-term equity awards, they may wonder how many of the performance-based equity awards granted in previous years are on track to pay out. According to Labrador's recent survey of the top 250 companies in the S&P 500, less than 25% provide this information in their proxy statements. Even if the disclosure only gives directional guidance on how awards may pay out, the information may help readers understand the company's long-term incentive program.



# . . . . .

Healthpeak

Healthpeak shows the results of the most recently completed performance period and gives a general sense of how the two performance periods in progress are tracking.

# Welltower

Welltower shows four years of completed LTI cycles and the two performance periods that are in progress. Readers can see payout trends and assess the likelihood that in-flight awards will vest.

LTIP Performance Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Status
2023-2025 LTIP <sup>(1)</sup>								Complet		High
2022-2024 LTIP <sup>(1)</sup>							Complete	d		High
2021-2023 LTIP						•	100% Completed	•		High Overall payout <b>150%</b>
2020-2022 LTIP						100% ompleted	-			Between Target + High Overall payout <b>132%</b>
2019-2021 LTIP				•	100% Completed					Target Overall payout <b>100%</b>
2018-2020 LTIP				100% ompleted	•					Between Threshold + Target Overall payout <b>85.67%</b>

# Cognizant

Cognizant provides very specific results for the completed performance periods and reminds readers what the goals were for those years, but does not forecast expectations about the remainder of the performance cycle. This is a useful strategy for companies that are wary about suggesting that results for an incomplete multi-year period are tracking a particular way.

#### Performance on outstanding PSUs

Our 2022-2024 and 2023-2025 PSUs are structured similarly to the 2021-2023 PSUs described above, with three year performance periods and similar metrics. The 2021-2023 PSUs and 2022-2024 PSUs also utilize the same peer group for relative TSR. In setting the performance targets for the 2023-2025 PSUs, in order to better align with market practices, the Compensation Committee approved a different peer group consisting of the 5&P 500 Index. Except for relative TSR, targets are set at the beginning of the 3-year performance period as a percentage increase over prior year results (so the exact target is not known until after the end of the prior year). Prior to determining the performance by the company against the revenue and adjusted diluted EPS targets for each year, the Compensation Committee adjusted, and expects to adjust for 2024 and 2025. (1) the revenue threshold, target and maximum levels to account for currency fluctuations in a manner intended to ensure that they do not impact, positively or negatively, the achievement of targets and (2) the revenue and adjusted diluted EPS targets by the amount of revenue and adjusted PS derived from acquisitions completed during the respective years in a manner intended to ensure that acquisitions do not impact, positively or negatively, the achievement of targets. Performance on such awards for which at least a full calendar year of the performance period has been completed are tracking below target as follows:

	Metric	Year	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Achieved	% of Achievement Earned
2022-2024 PSUs	Revenue (in billions)	Year 1 (2022)	\$19.3	\$19.7	\$20.1	\$19.4	61%
		Year 2 (2023)	\$20.7	\$21.1	\$21.5	\$19.4	0%
		Year 3 (2024)					
	Adjusted Diluted EPS	Year 1 (2022)	\$4.44	\$4.53	\$4.61	\$4.40	0%
		Year 2 (2023)	\$4.75	\$4.84	\$4.92	\$4.55	0%
		Year 3 (2024)					
	Relative TSR	3-year period	30 <sup>th</sup> %ile	50 <sup>th</sup> %ile	80 <sup>th</sup> %ile	38.8 <sup>th</sup> %ile as of 12/31/2023	
2023-2025 PSUs	Revenue (in billions)	Year 1 (2023)	\$20.0	\$20.4	\$20.8	\$19.4	0%
		Year 2 (2024)					
		Year 3 (2025)					
	Adjusted Diluted EPS	Year 1 (2023)	\$4.51	\$4.59	\$4.68	\$4.55	76%
		Year 2 (2024)					
		Year 3 (2025)					
	Relative TSR	3-year period	30 <sup>th</sup> %ile	50 <sup>th</sup> %ile	80 <sup>th</sup> %ile	81.4 <sup>th</sup> %ile as of 12/31/2023	

#### PRSU ADJUSTED EPS TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE END OF **FISCAL YEAR 2023** The table below sets forth the adjusted EPS goals for each of the last three fiscal years and the application of the TSR modifie

to the payout of PRSUs awarded to our NEOs in November 2020. As indicated below, the adjusted EPS goal for fiscal year 2023



# **Starbucks**

Starbucks is very specific about the goals and results for the completed years without appearing to make any predictions about performance periods in progress.

#### LTI Plan Alignment

Long-term incentive awards are designed to reward the achievement of our long-term business goals and to ensure payouts are aligned to financial performance and stock price performance.

The LTI award mix for our CEO consists of performance shares (weighted 60%), premium-priced stock options (weighted 20%) and time-based RSUS (weighted 20%). For our CEO's 2021 annual LTI and the 2022 performance-oriented equity award, the performance shares were tied to relative TSK. For the 2022 annual LTI and the 2023 annual LTI, the performance shares were tied to relative TSR and Adjusted EBITDA (each weighted 50%).

The Compensation Committee believes that linking the significant majority of our CEO's pay to the performance of our Company aligns him to the interests of our shareholders while providing the motivation to drive the successful execution of our business objectives.



Target LTI value is determined based on the methodologies described under "Determination of 2023 Annual LTI Grant Values" on page 67.

page 57. Currently realizable LTI amount represents: (1) vested equity through December 31, 2023; (1i) the intrinsic value of unvested premium-priced options as of December 31, 2023; (1ii) the value of unvested TSR performance shares assuming payout at the relative performance level achievement of the performance measure as of December 29, 2023; and (1) the value of Adjusted EBITO Aperformance shares assuming payout based on expected achievement of the performance measure as of December 29, 2023; (1) the value of Adjusted EBITO Aperformance shares assuming payout based on expected achievement of the performance measure as of December 29, 2023; (1) the value of Adjusted EBITO Aperformance shares assuming payout based on expected achievement of the performance of the LTI averative (which are subject to increase or decrease prior to vesting) cannot be determined until the time of vesting, when financial performance and stock price performance are complete.

are complete. The Equilar stock price was \$177.19 on the grant date for the 2021 annual LTI award (Feb. 12, 2021). The stock price increased to \$225.00 by the grant date for the 2022 annual LTI award (Feb. 11, 2022). The unprecedented U.S. mortgage market decline began in 2022 and continued throughout 2023. During that period, the Equilar stock price declined to \$206.91 on the grant date for the 2022 and continued throughout 2023. During that period, the Equilar stock price declined to \$206.91 on the grant date for the 2022 area contended to \$200 and \$2,002 and to \$200 in the grant date for the 2023 annual LTI award (Feb. 10, 2023). Equifar relative TSR was above target (103.3% payout) for the 3-year period ended Dec. 31, 2023. Equifar relative TSR was tacking a below target (36 by pound) for the 2-year period ended Dec. 31, 2023. The form (2012). Smortgage market decline and stock price decline during the period. Equifax Adjusted EBITDA grew by 1.49% during the 2-year period ended Dec. 31, 2023.

# Equifax

Equifax's color-coded bar graphs show generally the status of the in-progress and most recently completed performance periods. The company also provides graphs showing how the CEO's awards specifically are tracking.

(1) Mr. Narasimhan received a grant of fiscal year 2021 PRSUs and fiscal year 2022 PRSUs on October 1, 2022

Mr. Narasimina received a grant of incar year 2021 Proces and incar year 2022 Procession Occoder (2) Adjusted EPS is a non-GAV measure. Appendix A includes a reconciliation of adjusted EPS to the reported under GAP as well as information regarding how these measures are calculated.
 Mr. Lerman received a grant of fiscal year 2023 PRSUs on May 15, 2023.



# About Labrador

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Our experienced and passionate team is composed of attorneys, designers, project managers, thinkers and web developers. We collaborate together around a process that encompasses drafting, editing, designing and publishing across all digital and print channels.

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In turn, our commitment to our clients has resulted in meaningful long-term relationships with some of the most respected public and private companies in the world.

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