



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARRINGTON INVESTMENTS CHALLENGES LAUNCH OF AMAZON “REKOGNITION”

Harrington Investments, Inc. (HII), a Napa Valley, California-based socially responsible investment advisory firm has introduced a shareholder resolution that will appear on the Amazon Corporation (AMZN) shareholder ballot at the annual shareholders meeting in Seattle, Washington on May 22, 2019.

The resolution calls for AMZN to commission an independent study of the facial recognition surveillance technology (“Rekognition”) to determine the extent to which the technology will endanger, threaten or violate privacy and/or civil rights or target people of color, immigrants or activists in the US and the extent to which Rekognition will be marketed and sold to authoritarian or oppressive foreign governments. The study also calls for a review of the company’s financial and reputational risks associated with human rights issues raised in the resolution. John Harrington, President and CEO of HII, elaborates on the dangers of this technology:

“Amazon (AMZN), has launched a facial recognition surveillance technology (“Rekognition”) that will now be available to authoritarian governments, police, military and internal security regimes without comprehensive fiduciary oversight, study and analysis by our board of directors. It will essentially implement a global electronic “Pass System”, similar to the South African apartheid pass (based upon race), to identify human beings, consolidated with massive personal data and ubiquitous camera surveillance utilized to track all human activity and interaction.”

In summation, Harrington closes with a daunting image of a potential, not-so-distant future:

“This may ultimately allow implementation of not only global authoritarian government control over our lives, but allow the consolidation of all personal information, including data, photographic and video identification, to maximize corporate control over our financial and retail future: a perfect ‘public/private

partnership'. Finally, this foolish and dangerous business decision, will unleash a storm of litigation and regulatory activity, which, without prior fiduciary review and analysis, will destine our company to untold costs and risks to shareholders, customers, other stakeholders and global society.”

Another shareholder proposal regarding facial recognition, introduced by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, will be on the shareholder ballot at AMZN, which asks the company to halt all sales of Rekognition software. Both resolutions are the result of collaborative efforts – organizations and individuals involved include **Open MIC**, led by Michael Connor; the American Civil Liberty Union (**ACLU**); the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, represented by Mary Beth Gallagher, the Executive Director of Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment (**Tri-CRI**).

Hill is a 35-year old socially responsible Registered Investment Advisor (RIA), managing approximately \$240 million in assets for institutions and individuals. The firm utilizes environmental, social and governance (ESG) screening criteria, in addition to financial criteria, engages in shareholder advocacy, and implements an impact investing methodology in managing portfolios for clients.