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# GOP Vows to Shut Down ESG if It Wins Congress

Republicans plan to adopt an appropriation rider blocking the SEC from adopting environmental, social and governance regulations should they regain control of Congress in the upcoming midterm elections.

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Republicans in Congress are threatening to block environmental, social and governance regulations if they regain control in the upcoming midterm elections, Roll Call reports.

“We’ll have some ability to push back on that starting next winter,” said Rep. **Chris Stewart** (R-Utah) in a Roll Call interview last week.

GOP leadership plans to target ESG via an appropriation rider similar to the **provision** adopted in 2015 that keeps the **Securities and Exchange Commission** from adopting rules on corporate political spending disclosure, according to Stewart, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

“We’re going to be able to put some limits on this, precluding the Securities and Exchange Commission, for example, from using their regulatory authority to implement policies that are really out of bounds of their actual authority,” he said.

Stewart also said he and other Republican colleagues are encouraging other GOP Congress members to begin coordinating state-level actions in opposition to ESG.

Stewart did just that with Utah's entire congressional delegation, joining with the state's treasurer in signing a **letter** to **S&P Global Ratings** demanding that it withdraw new supplemental ESG scores for its analyses of states and state subdivisions.

Officials from other states, including Arizona, Texas and West Virginia, had previously taken issue with ESG investing, and legislation to that effect could start to proliferate following the influential conservative advocacy group **American Legislative Exchange**

**Council's** release of [model legislation](#) limiting the capability of state pensions to incorporate ESG investment criteria.

“Every state employee should have full faith and confidence that their retirement funds are being invested for maximum growth and not being used to promote a political agenda,” said **Lee Schalk**, ALEC's vice president of policy, in a [statement](#).

By [Joe Morris](#)