

May 18, 2017

Dear Fellow Shareholder of The Swiss Helvetia Fund (SWZ):

Bulldog Investors is one of SWZ's largest shareholders. We are soliciting a proxy to vote your shares at the 2017 annual meeting because the Board of Directors has repeatedly acted to make it harder for shareholders to hold them accountable or to conduct a proxy contest. We believe SWZ's persistent double-digit discount to net asset value is, in part, a reflection of extremely poor corporate governance practices.

The anti-shareholder actions taken by the Board speak for themselves. For example:

- They proposed changing SWZ's state of incorporation from Delaware to Maryland, a state whose laws are hostile to shareholders. Thankfully, shareholders voted that ill-conceived proposal down.
- They unilaterally adopted a By-law that requires shareholders to obtain an almost insurmountable vote - 75% of the outstanding shares – to amend the By-laws.
- They unilaterally adopted a By-Law establishing qualifications for nominees for director that almost no shareholder can be expected to meet – and excluded themselves from having to meet those same qualifications!
- The Board intended to use the Director Qualifications By-law to disqualify one of our nominees while apparently giving a free pass to its own nominees who also do not seem to meet the qualifications. Therefore, one month ago we asked the Board to explain how their nominees met the qualifications. The Board never responded.
- They failed to promptly implement a shareholder proposal to de-stagger the Board at the 2016 annual meeting even though that proposal received 83% of the votes cast. Even now, they are dragging out the process of de-staggering the Board.
- At the 2016 annual meeting, they did not permit shareholders to vote for a director to fill a vacancy and instead, appointed a director with close business ties to Schroders, SWZ's investment advisor, to serve for a three-year term.
- They are trying to scare shareholders into not voting on our proxy card by claiming that it could “nullify your votes” for directors and a proposal to conduct a self-tender offer. We know of no basis whatsoever for that assertion.
- At the upcoming meeting, they are denying any shareholders that give them a proxy card the right to choose how to vote on several proposals. They apparently are afraid you might vote the wrong way.

In sum, the Board's attitude toward shareholders is like Napoleon's attitude toward the farm animals in George Orwell's classic Animal Farm. As Squealer, the pig, explained:

Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is a pleasure. On the contrary, it is a deep and heavy responsibility. No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?

The actions of the Directors indicate that they care more about entrenching themselves in their positions than about serving shareholders. That is why we are seeking to elect three Directors that have no ties to Schrodgers, who will never take actions that impede shareholder democracy, and who believe that their job is to serve shareholders, not to rule them. We are also soliciting your vote on several proposals that are described in the accompanying proxy statement including proposals that allow shareholders to express their view about anti-democratic By-laws. And, you can be sure that, unlike the current directors, our nominees will promptly act if shareholders cast 83% of their votes in favor of a proposal.

Lastly, we have been advised that some significant shareholders would like to invest in a Pan-European fund managed by a shareholder-friendly board of directors. We believe that Europe has many compelling investment opportunities. To that end, our nominees, if elected, intend to solicit shareholders about the possibility of spinning off a portion of SWZ's assets into a new value oriented closed-end fund that would focus on Europe.

IMPORTANT: THE BOARD'S PROXY CARD DOES NOT INCLUDE SOME IMPORTANT PROPOSALS THAT WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING. THEREFORE, YOU MUST RETURN THE ENCLOSED GREEN PROXY CARD IF YOU WISH TO VOTE ON EVERY PROPOSAL.

IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD IN STREET NAME, YOU MAY VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.PROXYVOTE.COM OR BY TELEPHONE AT 1-800-454-8683. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RETURNED MANAGEMENT'S PROXY CARD (EVEN IF YOU VOTED AGAINST THE BOARD'S NOMINEES), YOU MUST STILL RETURN OUR ENCLOSED GREEN PROXY CARD IN ORDER TO ELECT OUR NOMINEES AND TO VOTE ON ALL PROPOSALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW TO VOTE YOUR PROXY, PLEASE CALL INVESTORCOM AT 1-877-972-0090.

Very truly yours,



Phillip Goldstein
Principal
Bulldog Investors, LLC