

CATERPILLAR INC  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant:  X

Filed by a Party other than  
the Registrant:

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule  
14a-6(e)(2))

X

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Caterpillar Inc.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than  
the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

X No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
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- (5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
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- (3) Filing Party:
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100 NE Adams Street  
Peoria, Illinois 61629

Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders  
Wednesday, June 9, 2010  
1:30 p.m. — Central Daylight Time

Northern Trust Building  
50 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60675

April 30, 2010

Dear fellow stockholder:

On behalf of the board of directors (Board), you are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Caterpillar Inc. annual meeting of stockholders (Annual Meeting) to:

	§	Elect directors;
§		Ratify our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm;
	§	Act on Company proposals;
§		Act on properly presented stockholder proposals; and
§		Conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting.

We have elected to furnish proxy materials for the Annual Meeting to stockholders via the Internet. We believe the use of the Securities and Exchange Commission's e-proxy rule will expedite stockholders' receipt of the proxy materials, lower the costs and reduce the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting. On April 30, 2010, we mailed a notice to most stockholders containing instructions on how to access the proxy materials and vote online. All other stockholders were sent a copy of the proxy materials by mail or e-mail. See page 1 of this proxy statement for more information on e-proxy and instructions on how you can (i) receive a paper copy of the proxy materials if you received a notice by mail, or (ii) elect to receive your proxy materials over the Internet or by e-mail, if you received them by mail this year.

You must have an admission ticket to attend the Annual Meeting. Procedures for requesting an admission ticket are detailed on page 70 of this proxy statement. Attendance and voting is limited to stockholders of record at the close of business on April 12, 2010.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Owens  
Chairman

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#### PART ONE — Information about E-proxy, Meeting Attendance and Voting Matters

### **Internet Availability of Proxy Materials**

As permitted by e-proxy rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Caterpillar Inc. (Caterpillar, the Company, we or us) is providing, in most cases, the proxy materials for its Annual Meeting electronically via the Internet or e-mail. On April 30, 2010, we initiated delivery of proxy materials to our stockholders of record as of the close of business on April 12, 2010 in one of three ways: 1) a notice containing instructions on how to access proxy materials via the Internet (Internet Notice), 2) a paper copy mailing (Paper Mailing) or 3) an e-mail distribution. If you received an Internet Notice, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials in the mail. Instead, the Internet Notice provides instructions on how to access the proxy materials and vote online or by telephone. If you received an Internet Notice and would like to receive a printed copy of the

proxy materials or elect to receive the materials via e-mail in the future, please follow the instructions included in the Internet Notice. If you received a Paper Mailing and would like to register to receive an Internet Notice or an e-mail regarding availability of proxy materials in the future, you can do so by any of the following methods:

§ Internet – Go to [www.eproxyaccess.com/cat2010](http://www.eproxyaccess.com/cat2010) and follow the registration instructions.

§ Telephone – From within the United States or Canada, call us free of charge at 1-888-216-1363.

§ E-mail – Send us an e-mail at [cat@eproxyaccess.com](mailto:cat@eproxyaccess.com). Include the control number from your Paper Mailing as the subject line, and indicate whether you wish to receive a paper or e-mail copy of the proxy materials and whether your request is for this meeting only or for all future meetings.

### Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Meeting Attendance and Voting

Q: Why am I receiving these proxy materials?

A: You have received these proxy materials because you are a Caterpillar stockholder, and Caterpillar's Board is soliciting your authority or proxy to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting. This proxy statement includes information that we are required to provide to you under SEC rules and is designed to assist you in voting your shares.

Q: What is e-proxy and why did Caterpillar choose to use it this year?

A: SEC rules allow companies to choose the method for delivery of proxy materials to stockholders. For most stockholders, we have elected to send an Internet Notice, rather than mailing a full set of proxy materials. We believe that this method of delivery will expedite your receipt of proxy materials and lower the costs and reduce the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting.

Q: Why didn't I receive an "annual report" or sustainability report with my proxy materials?

A: Our 2009 "Year in Review" and 2009 "Sustainability Report" are available exclusively online at [www.CAT.com/investor](http://www.CAT.com/investor). The online, interactive format of the reports furthers our efforts to lower costs and reduce the environmental impact of our communications. As required by SEC rules, complete financial statements, financial statement notes and management's discussion and analysis for 2009 are included with the proxy statement distributed to stockholders.

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Q: How do I obtain an admission ticket to attend the Annual Meeting?

A: Anyone wishing to attend the Annual Meeting must have an admission ticket issued in his or her name. Admission is limited to:

- § Stockholders of record on April 12, 2010 and one immediate family member;
- § An authorized proxy holder of a stockholder of record on April 12, 2010; or
- § An authorized representative of a stockholder of record who has been designated to present a stockholder proposal.

You must provide evidence of your ownership of shares with your ticket request and follow the requirements for obtaining an admission ticket specified in the “Admission and Ticket Request Procedure” on page 70. Accredited members of the media and analysts are also permitted to attend the Annual Meeting pursuant to the directions provided in the “Admission and Ticket Request Procedure” on page 70.

Q: What is a stockholder of record?

A: A stockholder of record or registered stockholder is a stockholder whose ownership of Caterpillar stock is reflected directly on the books and records of our transfer agent, BNY Mellon Shareowner Services (Transfer Agent). If you hold stock through a bank, broker or other intermediary, you hold your shares in “street name” and are not a stockholder of record. For shares held in street name, the stockholder of record is your bank, broker or other intermediary. Caterpillar only has access to ownership records for the stockholders of record. So, if you are not a stockholder of record, the Company needs additional documentation to evidence your stock ownership as of the record date – such as a copy of your brokerage account statement, a letter from your broker, bank or other nominee or a copy of your voting instruction card.

Q: When is the record date and who is entitled to vote?

A: The Board set April 12, 2010 as the record date for the Annual Meeting. Holders of Caterpillar common stock on that date are entitled to one vote per share. As of April 12, 2010, there were 628,185,024 shares of Caterpillar common stock outstanding.

A list of all registered stockholders will be available for examination by stockholders during normal business hours at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629, at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting and will also be available for examination at the Annual Meeting.

Q: How do I vote?

A: You may vote by any of the following methods:

- § In person – Stockholders of record and stockholders with shares held in street name that obtain an admission ticket and attend the Annual Meeting will receive a ballot for

voting. If you hold shares in street name, you must also obtain a legal proxy from your broker to vote in person and submit the proxy along with your ballot at the meeting.

§ By mail – Signing and returning the proxy and/or voting instruction card provided.

§ By phone or via the Internet – Following the instructions on your Internet Notice, proxy and/or voting instruction card or e-mail notice.

If you vote by phone or the Internet, please have your Internet Notice, proxy and/or voting instruction card or e-mail notice available. The control number appearing on your Internet Notice, proxy and/or voting instruction card or e-mail notice is necessary to process your vote. A phone or Internet vote authorizes the named proxies in the same manner as if you marked, signed and returned the card by mail.

Q: Why is it so important that I vote my shares?

A: We value your input on questions facing the Company. Please note that if you hold your shares through a broker in street name, beginning this year, New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules will not permit your broker to vote your shares in the election of directors without your instruction. Your failure to vote this year may require us to incur additional solicitation costs. In addition, your voice can be heard on important Company matters when you vote. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we encourage you to vote your shares promptly so that we can avoid additional costs.

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Q: What are “broker non-votes” and why is it so important that I submit my voting instructions for shares I hold in street name?

A: Under the rules of the NYSE, if a broker or other financial institution holds your shares in its name and you do not provide your voting instructions to them, that firm has discretion to vote your shares for certain routine matters. For example, Company Proposal 2, the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm, is a routine matter.

On the other hand, the broker or other financial institution that holds your shares in its name does not have discretion to vote your shares for non-routine matters, including stockholder proposals. When a broker votes a client’s shares on some but not all of the proposals at the Annual Meeting, the missing votes are referred to as “broker non-votes.”

Q: How can I authorize someone else to attend the meeting or vote for me?

A: Stockholders of record can authorize someone other than the individual(s) named on the proxy and/or voting instruction card to vote on their behalf by crossing out the individual(s)

named on the card and inserting the name of the individual being authorized or by providing a written authorization to the individual being authorized to attend or vote.

Street name holders can contact their broker to obtain documentation with authorization to attend or vote at the meeting.

To obtain an admission ticket for an authorized proxy representative, see the requirements specified in the "Admission and Ticket Request Procedure" on page 70.

Q: How can I change or revoke my vote?

A: For stockholders of record: You may change or revoke your vote by submitting a written notice of revocation to Caterpillar Inc. c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629 or by validly submitting another vote on or before June 9, 2010 (including a vote via the Internet or by telephone). For all methods of voting, the last vote cast will supersede all previous votes.

For holders in street name: You may change or revoke your voting instructions by following the specific directions provided to you by your bank or broker.

Q: Is my vote confidential?

A: Yes. Proxy cards, ballots, Internet and telephone votes that identify stockholders are kept confidential. There are exceptions for contested proxy solicitations or when necessary to meet legal requirements. Innisfree M&A Incorporated (Innisfree), the independent proxy tabulator used by Caterpillar, counts the votes and acts as the inspector of election for the Annual Meeting.

Q: What is the quorum for the meeting?

A: A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. For Caterpillar, at least one-third of all stockholders must be present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting to constitute a quorum. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present for establishing a quorum.

Q: What vote is necessary for action to be taken on proposals?

A: Directors are elected by a plurality vote of the shares present at the meeting, meaning that director nominees with the most affirmative votes are elected to fill the available seats. Company proposals to amend the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws require the affirmative vote of no less than 75 percent of the outstanding shares. All other actions presented for a vote of the stockholders at the Annual Meeting require an affirmative vote of the majority of shares present or represented at the meeting and entitled to vote. Abstentions will have the effect of a vote against matters other than director elections. Broker non-votes will not have an effect on any proposals presented for your vote.



Votes submitted by mail, telephone or Internet will be voted by the individuals named on the card (or the individual properly authorized) in the manner indicated. If you do not specify how you want your shares voted, they will be voted in accordance with the Board's recommendations. If you hold shares in more than one account, you must vote each proxy and/or voting instruction card you receive to ensure that all shares you own are voted.

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Q: When are stockholder proposals due for the 2011 annual meeting?

A: To be considered for inclusion in the Company's 2011 proxy statement, stockholder proposals must be received in writing no later than January 1, 2011. Stockholder proposals should be sent to Caterpillar Inc. by mail c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629. Additionally, we request that you also forward all stockholder proposals via facsimile to the following facsimile number: 309-494-1467.

Q: What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

A: Whenever possible, registered shares and plan shares for multiple accounts with the same registration will be combined into the same card. Shares with different registrations cannot be combined and as a result, you may receive more than one proxy card. For example, registered shares held individually by John Smith will not be combined on the same proxy card as registered shares held jointly by John Smith and his wife.

Street shares are not combined with registered or plan shares and may result in the stockholder receiving more than one proxy card. For example, street shares held by a broker for John Smith will not be combined with registered shares for John Smith.

If you hold shares in more than one account, you must vote for each notice, proxy and/or voting instruction card or e-mail notification you receive that has a unique control number to ensure that all shares you own are voted.

If you receive more than one card for accounts that you believe could be combined because the registration is the same, contact our Transfer Agent (for registered shares) or your broker (for street shares) to request that the accounts be combined for future mailings.

Q: Who pays for the solicitation of proxies?

A: Caterpillar pays the cost of soliciting proxies on behalf of the Board. This solicitation is being made by mail, but also may be made by telephone or in person. We have hired Innisfree to assist in the solicitation. We will pay Innisfree a fee of \$15,000 for these services, and will reimburse their out-of-pocket expenses. We will reimburse brokerage firms and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for sending proxy materials to stockholders and obtaining their votes.

Q: Are there any matters to be voted on at the Annual Meeting that are not included in this proxy statement?

A: We do not know of any matters to be voted on by stockholders at the meeting other than those discussed in this proxy statement. If any other matter is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, proxy holders will vote on the matter in their discretion.

Under Caterpillar's Bylaws, a stockholder may bring a matter to vote at the Annual Meeting by giving adequate notice to Caterpillar Inc. by mail c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629. To qualify as adequate, the notice must contain the information specified in our Bylaws and be received by us not less than 45 days nor more than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting. However, if less than 60 days' notice of the Annual Meeting date is given to stockholders, notice of a matter to be brought before the Annual Meeting may be provided to us up to the 15th day following the date the notice of the Annual Meeting was provided.

Q: Can I submit a question in advance of the Annual Meeting?

A: Stockholders wishing to submit a question for consideration in advance of the Annual Meeting may do so by sending an e-mail to the Corporate Secretary at [Directors@CAT.com](mailto:Directors@CAT.com) or by mail to Caterpillar Inc. c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629. At the Annual Meeting, the Chairman will alternate taking live questions with questions submitted in advance, if any.

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## PART TWO — Corporate Governance Information

### Corporate Governance Guidelines

Our Board has adopted Guidelines on Corporate Governance Issues (Corporate Governance Guidelines), which are available on our Internet site at [www.CAT.com/governance](http://www.CAT.com/governance). The Corporate Governance Guidelines reflect the Board's commitment to oversee the effectiveness of policy and decision-making both at the Board and management level, with a view to enhancing stockholder value over the long term.

### Composition of the Board

#### Structure

As of the date of this proxy statement, our Board consists of 15 directors and is divided into three classes for election purposes. One class is elected at each annual meeting to serve for a three-year term.

In response to prior stockholder proposals, the Board has decided to recommend Company Proposal 4 to declassify the Board. If at least 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company are voted in favor of Company Proposal 4 to amend our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws to declassify the Board, each director elected at the Annual Meeting will hold office until the 2011 annual meeting. At the 2011 annual meeting, all of our currently serving directors' terms would automatically expire, and all directors would stand for election at the 2011 annual meeting and on an annual basis thereafter.

If fewer than 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company are voted in favor of Company Proposal 4, there will be no change to our directors' terms of office or to the class structure of the Board and directors elected at the Annual Meeting will hold office for a three-year term expiring at the 2013 annual meeting. Directors in the other two classes will continue in office for the remainder of their terms.

If a nominee is unavailable for election, proxy holders will vote for another nominee proposed by the Board or, as an alternative, the Board may reduce the number of directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

At its June 9, 2010 meeting, the Board is expected to elect Douglas R. Oberhelman as a director of the Company, effective on July 1, 2010. Mr. Oberhelman's election to the Board is expected to occur in connection with his appointment as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Company. Mr. Oberhelman is not expected to serve on any Board committees and will be a Class II director. His business experience and recent directorships are provided with his description as a Class II director below. When Mr. Oberhelman is elected as a director, the Board will have 16 directors.

The Board has determined that, with the exception of Mr. Owens, all directors are independent as determined under NYSE listing standards and the standards described under "Director Independence Determinations" on page 10.

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines require a director to tender his or her resignation upon a significant change in business or personal circumstances. Accordingly, on November 10, 2009, Gail D. Fosler submitted a letter of resignation from her position as a director following her resignation as president of The Conference Board. On November 19, 2009, John R. Brazil also submitted a letter of resignation from his position as a director following his retirement as president of Trinity University. On February 10, 2010, the Board accepted Ms. Fosler's and Mr. Brazil's resignations, effective upon the expiration of their current terms as Class I directors on the date of the Company's annual meeting of stockholders in 2011.

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The current composition of the Board classes is as follows:

#### Director Biographies and Qualifications

##### Class I – Directors with terms expiring in 2011

§ W. FRANK BLOUNT, 71, Chairman and CEO of JI Ventures, Inc. (venture capital) and former Chairman and CEO of TTS, Inc. (private equity firm). Other current directorships: Alcatel-Lucent S.A.; Entergy Corporation; and KBR, Inc. Other directorships within the last five years: Adtran Inc. and Hanson PLC. Mr. Blount has been a director of the Company since 1995.

The Board believes that Mr. Blount's international business experience allows him to provide important insights for the Company's management and execution of its strategic plans. His experience as former Group President of AT&T, Inc. and former CEO of Telstra, Inc. of Australia and as a director for other large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

Mr. Blount will turn 72 this year and is expected to retire from the Board on or before December 31, 2010, pursuant to the mandatory director retirement age set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

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JOHN R. BRAZIL, 64, former President of Trinity University (San Antonio, Texas). Other current directorships: none. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Dr. Brazil has been a director of the Company since 1998.

The Board believes that Dr. Brazil's role as a thought leader in education and academia brings important insights and diverse viewpoints to the Board. His experience as a university president and prior service as a director of a large utility corporation and several banks also enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§EUGENE V. FIFE, 69, Managing Principal of Vawter Capital LLC (private investment). Mr. Fife served as the interim CEO and President of Eclipsys Corporation (healthcare information services) from April to November of 2005 and currently serves as the non-executive Chairman. Other current directorships: Eclipsys Corporation. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Fife has been a director of the Company since 2002.

The Board believes that Mr. Fife's investment banking experience bolsters the expertise of the Board and adds important insights for the Company's growth strategy. His financial expertise and experience are important considerations for the Board. Additionally, his experiences as a chief executive officer and director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§GAIL D. FOSLER, 62, Senior Advisor of The Conference Board (research and business membership). Prior to her current position, Ms. Fosler has served as President, Trustee, Executive Vice President, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of The Conference Board. Other current directorships: Baxter International Inc. Other directorships within the last five years: DBS Group Holdings Ltd. and Unisys Corporation. Ms. Fosler has been a director of the Company since 2003.

The Board believes that Ms. Fosler's knowledge of corporate best practices and global view of economic trends, especially her knowledge of emerging markets, is important to the Company's management and strategic plans. Her insight and expertise as a leading economic forecaster and advisor provides the Board with additional insight into long-term macro-economic planning. Her financial expertise and experience as a director at other large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables her to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§PETER A. MAGOWAN, 68, former President and Managing General Partner of the San Francisco Giants (major league baseball team). Other current directorships: none. Directorships within the last five years: DaimlerChrysler AG, Safeway Inc. and Spring Group plc. Mr. Magowan has been a director of the Company since 1993.

The Board believes that Mr. Magowan's business experience as a long-term chief executive officer of Safeway Inc., a large, publicly-traded multinational corporation, is particularly valuable to the Board. His experience in owning and managing a professional baseball organization also provides a diverse viewpoint on business matters. In addition, his experience as a director of other large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ DANIEL M. DICKINSON, 48, Managing Partner of Thayer | Hidden Creek (private equity investment). Other current directorships: IESI-BFC Ltd. and Mistras Group, Inc. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Dickinson has been a director of the Company since 2006.

The Board believes that Mr. Dickinson's experience in mergers and acquisitions, private equity business and role as an investment banker provides important insight for the Company's growth strategy. His significant financial expertise and experience, both in the U.S. and internationally, contributes to the Board's understanding and ability to analyze complex issues. His experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ DAVID R. GOODE, 69, former Chairman, President and CEO of Norfolk Southern Corporation (holding company engaged principally in surface transportation). Other current directorships: Delta Air Lines, Inc. and Texas Instruments Incorporated. Other directorships within the last five years: Norfolk Southern Corporation and Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Mr. Goode has been a director of the Company since 1993.

The Board believes that Mr. Goode's experience in the transportation and railroad industry provides valuable expertise to the Board. His extensive experience in a capital-intensive industry enables him to make important contributions to the Company's growth strategy. In addition, his experience as a chief executive officer and director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ DOUGLAS R. OBERHELMAN (effective July 1, 2010), 57, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer-Elect and Group President of Caterpillar Inc. (machinery, engines and financial products). Mr. Oberhelman has been a Group President since January 1, 2001. Prior to becoming Group President, Mr. Oberhelman served as vice president with responsibility for the Engine Products Division. Other current directorships: Ameren Corporation and Eli Lilly and Company. As previously announced, Mr. Oberhelman will not stand for re-election to the Ameren board and will step down as a director effective April 27, 2010. Other directorships within the last five years: none.

The Board believes that Mr. Oberhelman's extensive experience and knowledge of the Company is valuable to the Board. He has worked at the Company for over 30 years and is familiar with its business and strategy. His knowledge of the business and background in finance enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

As previously announced, Mr. Oberhelman will become CEO and a member of the Board effective July 1, 2010.

§ JAMES W. OWENS, 64, Chairman and CEO of Caterpillar Inc. (machinery, engines and financial products). Prior to his current position, Mr. Owens served as Vice Chairman of Caterpillar. Other current directorships: Alcoa Inc. and International Business Machines Corporation. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Owens has been a director of the Company since 2004.

The Board believes that Mr. Owens' extensive experience and knowledge of the Company is valuable to the Board. He has worked at the Company for over 35 years and is familiar with its business and strategy. His knowledge of the business and background in economics, coupled with his experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

Mr. Owens previously announced that he expects to retire as Chairman of the Board effective October 31, 2010.

§ CHARLES D. POWELL, 68, Chairman of Capital Generation Partners (asset and investment management), LVMH Services Limited (luxury goods) and Magna Holdings (real estate investment). Prior to his current positions, Lord Powell was Chairman of Sagitta Asset Management Limited (asset management). Other current

directorships: LVMH Moët-Hennessy Louis Vuitton and Textron Corporation. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Lord Powell has been a director of the Company since 2001.

The Board believes that Lord Powell's substantial knowledge of international affairs and business expertise are important to the Board. His trade, public and governmental affairs and international experience is also valued by the Board. In addition, his role as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

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§JOSHUA I. SMITH, 69, Chairman and Managing Partner of the Coaching Group, LLC (management consulting). Other current directorships: Comprehensive Care Corporation, FedEx Corporation and The Allstate Corporation. Other directorships within the last five years: CardioComm Solutions Inc. Mr. Smith has been a director of the Company since 1993.

The Board believes that Mr. Smith's experience in management consulting and business leadership provides important guidance to the Board. His experience as the Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Minority Business Development, Maryland Small Business Development Finance Authority and as a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce provides valued insights on diversity issues. In addition, his experience as the founder and chief executive officer of his own business and role as a director of other large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

#### Class III – Directors nominated for election at the Annual Meeting

§JOHN T. DILLON, 71, Senior Managing Director and former Vice Chairman of Evercore Partners (advisory and investment firm). Other current directorships: E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and Kellogg Co. Other directorships within the last five years: Vertis Inc. Mr. Dillon has been a director of the Company since 1997.

The Board believes that Mr. Dillon's prior experience as a chief executive officer of a large, publicly-traded multinational corporation, knowledge of the forest products industry and experience with trade-related issues is particularly valuable to the Board. In addition, his financial expertise and experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

Mr. Dillon will turn 72 this year and is expected to retire from the Board on or before December 31, 2010, pursuant to the mandatory director retirement age set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

§JUAN GALLARDO, 62, Chairman and former CEO of Grupo Embotelladoras Unidas S.A. de C.V. (bottling). Former Vice Chairman of Home Mart de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (retail trade), former Chairman of Grupo Azucarero Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (sugar mills) and former Chairman of Mexico Fund Inc. (mutual fund). Other current directorships: Grupo Mexico, S.A. de C.V. and Lafarge SA. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Gallardo has been a director of the Company since 1998.

The Board believes that Mr. Gallardo's international business experience, particularly in Latin America and South America, are important for the Company's growth strategy. His extensive background in trade-related issues also contributes to the Board's expertise. In addition, his experience as a chief executive officer and director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the

Company.

§ WILLIAM A. OSBORN, 62, retired Chairman and CEO of Northern Trust Corporation (multibank holding company) and The Northern Trust Company (bank). Other current directorships: Abbott Laboratories and General Dynamics. Other directorships within the last five years: Nicor Inc., Tribune Company and Northern Trust Corporation. Mr. Osborn has been a director of the Company since 2000.

The Board believes that Mr. Osborn's financial expertise and experience is valuable to the Board. His experience as a chairman and chief executive officer of a large, publicly-traded multinational corporation is particularly important to the Board. In addition, his experience as a director of other large, publicly-traded corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ EDWARD B. RUST, JR., 59, Chairman, CEO and President of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (insurance). He is also President and CEO of State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Life Insurance Company and other principal State Farm affiliates as well as Trustee and President of State Farm Mutual Fund Trust and State Farm Variable Product Trust. Other current directorships: Helmerich & Payne, Inc. and The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Rust has been a director of the Company since 2003.

The Board believes that Mr. Rust's financial and business experience is valuable to the Board. His role as a chief executive officer of a major national corporation and experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company. In addition, his extensive involvement in education improvement compliments the Company's culture of social responsibility.

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§ SUSAN C. SCHWAB, 55, Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy. Prior to her current position, Ambassador Schwab held various positions including United States Trade Representative (member of the President's cabinet), Deputy United States Trade Representative and President and CEO of the University System of Maryland Foundation. Other current directorships: FedEx Corporation and The Boeing Company. Other directorships within the last five years: Adams Express Company, Calpine Corporation and Petroleum & Resources Corporation. Ambassador Schwab has been a director of the Company since 2009.

The Board believes that Ambassador Schwab brings extensive knowledge, insight and experience on international trade issues to the Board. Her educational experience and role as the U.S. Trade Representative provide important insights for the Company's global business model and long-standing support of open trade. In addition, her experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables her to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

#### Related Party Transaction Approval Process

Caterpillar's Board adopted a written process governing the approval of related party transactions for directors and certain officers in April 2007. Under the process, all related party transactions are to be approved in advance by the Governance Committee. Related parties include directors and executive officers and their immediate family members. Caterpillar's related party transaction policy includes transactions which may not require disclosure under applicable SEC rules.

Prior to entering into such a transaction, the applicable director or officer must submit the details of the proposed transaction to the Company's general counsel, including whether: (i) the aggregate amount involved will or may be expected to exceed \$120,000 in any calendar year; (ii) the Company is a party; and (iii) the related person or his or her immediate family member has or will have a direct or indirect interest (other than solely as a result of being a director or a less than 10 percent beneficial owner of an entity involved in the transaction). The general counsel will then evaluate, based on the facts and circumstances of the transaction, whether the related person has a direct or indirect material interest in the transaction. If so, the general counsel will submit the matter to the Governance Committee for it to consider the following:

- § The nature of the related person's interest in the transaction.
- § The material terms of the transaction, including, without limitation, the amount and type of transaction.
- § The importance of the transaction to the related person.
- § The importance of the transaction to the Company.
- § Whether the transaction would impair the judgment of the director or executive officer to act in the best interest of the Company.
- § The alternatives to entering into the transaction.
- § Whether the transaction is on terms comparable to those available to third parties or, in the case of employment relationships, to employees generally.
- § The potential for the transaction to lead to an actual or apparent conflict of interest and any safeguards imposed to prevent such actual or apparent conflicts.
- § The overall fairness of the transaction to the Company.

In February 2010, Susan C. Schwab requested consideration of an arrangement whereby Ms. Schwab would provide consulting services to Mayer Brown LLP (Mayer Brown) on international trade issues. The Governance Committee discussed the request, including the compensation she expected to receive from Mayer Brown, the fact that Mayer Brown provides legal services to the Company and that Ms. Schwab would not provide any services to Mayer Brown in connection with any of the Company's legal matters. After careful consideration, the Governance Committee unanimously approved the transaction under the Company's related party transaction policy.

The Governance Committee also considered a matter reported by John T. Dillon under the Company's related party transaction approval process in February 2010. Mr. Dillon is Senior Managing Director of Evercore Partners, a subsidiary of which has been appointed Independent Fiduciary and Independent Monitor in connection with a litigation settlement involving

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Caterpillar. After careful consideration, the Governance Committee determined that Mr. Dillon did not have a direct or indirect material interest in this transaction.

In addition, the Governance Committee considered long-term transactions and relationships between the Company and The Conference Board, for which Ms. Fosler is currently a senior advisor and was previously the president and trustee, and with LSV Asset Management, for which Mr. Owens' son is a partner. The Governance Committee concluded that Ms. Fosler and Mr. Owens' son do not have a direct or indirect material interest in the applicable relationship or transaction.

The Governance Committee also considered the following matter:

In August 2007, Caterpillar entered into an exclusive marketing agreement with Claycrete, Ltd., a Hong Kong chartered manufacturer of products designed to harden dirt roads. Under this agreement, the Company agreed to



market Claycrete's products to Caterpillar's dealers in exchange for a marketing fee paid to Caterpillar based on the revenues generated by the agreement. In February 2008, Caterpillar also loaned \$1 million to Claycrete for working capital and other uses. Caterpillar expected the loan to be repaid from sales generated under the marketing agreement.

Claycrete had been initially introduced to Caterpillar by Mr. Joshua I. Smith, a member of our Board. Mr. Smith had provided a variety of consulting services to Mr. Jens Bogh, the Chief Executive Officer of Claycrete, including with respect to matters such as agreements with large companies like Caterpillar. Mr. Smith had an arrangement with Mr. Bogh whereby Mr. Smith would be paid for the business coaching provided to Mr. Bogh based upon among other things, sales by Claycrete of its products. Ultimately, no Claycrete products were sold under the marketing agreement, and no marketing fees have been paid to Caterpillar. For his services to Mr. Bogh and Claycrete, Mr. Smith was paid approximately \$37,000. Mr. Bogh is no longer the Chief Executive Officer of Claycrete, and Mr. Smith's interest in any transactions between Caterpillar and Claycrete has concluded.

The Governance Committee has reviewed the transactions involving Claycrete, Mr. Smith and Caterpillar. The Governance Committee determined that Caterpillar's related party transaction approval process was not correctly followed in this instance, but the Governance Committee did not find that Mr. Smith intentionally or willfully violated the policy. At the Board's request, Mr. Smith certified to the Board his commitment to comply with Caterpillar's policies and procedures and has undergone additional training focused on Caterpillar's corporate governance practices.

#### Director Independence Determinations

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines establish that no more than two non-independent directors shall serve on the Board at any point in time. A director is "independent" if he or she has no direct or indirect material relationship with the Company or with senior management of the Company and their respective affiliates. Annually, the Board makes an affirmative determination regarding the independence of each director based upon the recommendation of the Governance Committee. The Board makes its independence determinations on a case-by-case basis, after consideration of all relevant facts and circumstances. To assist in making its independence determinations, the Board has adopted the following standards, which conform to the applicable NYSE rules. Under these standards, a director is considered independent if he or she:

- (1) Has no material relationship with the Company, either directly or as a partner, stockholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Company, and does not have any relationship that precludes independence under the NYSE director independence standards;
- (2) Is not currently, or within the past three years, employed by the Company, or an immediate family member is not currently, or for the past three years, employed as an executive officer of the Company;
- (3) Is not a current employee, nor is an immediate family member a current executive officer of, a company that has made payments to, or received payments from, the Company for property or services in an amount which, in any of the past three years, exceeds the greater of \$1 million or 2 percent of the consolidated gross revenues of that company;
- (4) Has not received, nor has an immediate family member received, during any twelve month period within the last three years, direct remuneration in excess of \$120,000 from the Company other than director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior services;

- (5)(i) is not a current partner or employee of a firm that is the Company's internal or external auditor; (ii) does not have an immediate family member who is a current partner of such a firm; (iii) does not have an immediate family member who is a current employee of such a firm and personally works on the Company's audit; or (iv) has not, nor has an immediate family member, been a partner or employee of such a firm and personally worked on the Company's audit within the last three years;
- (6) Is not part of an "interlocking directorate," whereby an executive officer of the Company simultaneously served on the compensation committee of another company that employed the director as an executive officer during the last three years;
- (7) Is free of any relationships with the Company that may impair, or appear to impair, his or her ability to make independent judgments; and
- (8) Is not employed by a non-profit organization where a substantial portion of funding for the past three years (exceeding the greater of \$1 million or 2 percent of the organization's annual consolidated gross revenues) comes from the Company or the Caterpillar Foundation.

Applying these standards, on April 7, 2010 the Board determined that each of the following directors met the independence standards: W. Frank Blount, John R. Brazil, Daniel M. Dickinson, John T. Dillon, Eugene V. Fife, Gail D. Fosler, Juan Gallardo, David R. Goode, Peter A. Magowan, William A. Osborn, Charles D. Powell, Edward B. Rust, Jr., Susan C. Schwab and Joshua I. Smith. In making its determination, the Board considered certain Company transactions, relationships or arrangements, including the following, which the Board determined did not affect the applicable director's independence:

§ The Conference Board, for which Ms. Fosler was the president and a trustee in 2009 and is currently serving as a senior advisor, received payments from the Company for research, subscriptions, conferences, webcasts, etc. The Board determined that the amount of the payments made by the Company was below the greater of \$1 million or 2 percent of The Conference Board's consolidated gross revenues and that Ms. Fosler's independence was not affected by these payments.

§ Christopher Powell, brother of Charles D. Powell, is a member of the advisory board of PricewaterhouseCoopers in the United Kingdom; however, he is not a partner or employee of PricewaterhouseCoopers. PricewaterhouseCoopers is employed by us as our independent registered public accounting firm. The Board determined that Christopher Powell's limited role in providing advice to partners, business unit leaders and members of the PricewaterhouseCoopers United Kingdom executive board on the development of business for the firm does not affect Charles D. Powell's independence.

§ Various matching contributions made by the Caterpillar Foundation to non-profit organizations where directors or immediate family members are employed were also considered; however, none of the contributions were determined to have affected the independence of any of the directors.

In addition, the Board determined that, as a current employee of the Company, Mr. Owens is not independent based on the above standards.

The Governance Committee solicits and receives recommendations and reviews the qualifications of potential director candidates. After review, the Governance Committee recommends to the full Board candidates for election at the annual meeting of the Company's stockholders and candidates to fill vacancies on the Board. Potential director candidates may also be nominated by our stockholders and are similarly reviewed by the Governance Committee, which makes recommendations to the full Board. Additional information about the process for nominating directors and stockholder nominations is described in the "Governance Committee" section on page 18.

Our Chairman and CEO and Governance Committee periodically review with the Board the particular characteristics or attributes that would be most beneficial to the Company in future Board members. These characteristics, which are set forth in the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines, include, but are not limited to: (i) integrity, honesty and accountability, with a willingness to express independent thought; (ii) successful leadership experience and stature in an individual's primary field, with a background that demonstrates an understanding of business affairs as well as the complexities of a large, publicly-held company (with particular consideration being given to candidates with experience as chief executive officers

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of successful capital-intensive businesses with international operations); (iii) demonstrated ability to think strategically and make decisions with a forward-looking focus, with the ability to assimilate relevant information on a broad range of complex topics; (iv) be a team player with a demonstrated willingness to ask tough questions in a constructive manner that adds to the decision-making process of the Board; (v) independence and absence of conflicts of interest; (vi) ability to devote necessary time to meet director responsibilities; and (vii) ability to commit to the Company's stock ownership guidelines.

Consistent with these criteria for potential director candidates and Caterpillar's Worldwide Code of Conduct, the Board values diversity of talents, skills, abilities and experiences and believes that the diversity that exists on the Board provides significant benefits to the Company. Although there is no specific diversity policy, the Governance Committee may also consider the diversity of its members and potential candidates in selecting new directors.

### Board Leadership Structure

As set forth in the Company's Bylaws, the Chairman of our Board is also the CEO of the Company. In addition, in 2007 the independent directors of the Board unanimously elected a Presiding Director who is independent under the NYSE standards. As part of the Board's structure, all directors, other than the Chairman, are independent under the NYSE standards, and all committees of the Board are made up entirely of independent directors.

The Presiding Director's duties and responsibilities include: (i) presiding at all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman is not present; (ii) serving as a liaison between the Chairman and the independent directors; (iii) approving information sent to the Board; (iv) approving meeting agendas for the Board; (v) approving meeting schedules to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items; (vi) authority to call meetings of the independent directors; and (vii) if requested by major shareholders, ensuring that he is available for consultation and direct communication.

The Board has determined that the combined role of Chairman and CEO is appropriate for the Company as it promotes unified leadership and direction for the Company, allowing for a single, clear focus for management to execute the Company's strategy and business plans. This structure also avoids the added costs and inefficiencies that would result by mandating an independent Chairman. The Board believes that the governance structure and role of the Presiding Director allow the Board to effectively work with the combined role of the Chairman and CEO.

In anticipation of Mr. Owens' upcoming retirement and the leadership transition to Mr. Oberhelman, the Board has decided to allow Mr. Owens, the current Chairman and CEO, to continue to serve as Chairman of the Board until he retires on October 31, 2010. Mr. Oberhelman is expected to become the new CEO on July 1, 2010 and is expected to assume the role of Chairman of the Board on November 1, 2010. The Board considers that this approach to succession will provide stability and continuity to the Company during this period.

### Board's Role in Risk Oversight

The full Board oversees enterprise risk as part of its role in reviewing and overseeing the implementation of the Company's strategic plans and objectives. The risk oversight function is administered both in full Board discussions and in individual committees that are tasked by the Board with oversight of specific risks as more fully described in the summary of each committee below.

On a regular basis, the Board and its committees receive information and reports from management on the status of the Company and the risks associated with the Company's strategy and business plans. In addition, the Audit Committee reviews the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies and procedures at least annually, including its major financial risk exposures and steps taken to monitor and control such exposures. The Chairman of the Audit Committee presents this information to the full Board for review.

The Board believes the combined role of Chairman and CEO is an effective structure for the Board to understand the risks associated with the Company's strategic plans and objectives. Additionally, maintaining an independent Board with a Presiding Director permits open discussion and assessment of the Company's ability to manage these risks.

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### Board Meetings and Committees

In 2009, our full Board met six times and regularly scheduled executive sessions, led by the Presiding Director, were held without management present. In addition to those meetings, directors attended meetings of individual Board committees. Overall attendance for our directors at full Board and committee meetings held in 2009 was 98.37 percent. For Board meetings only, attendance was 98.78 percent in 2009. No director attended fewer than 75 percent of the total meetings held in 2009. Company policy, posted on our Internet site, states that absent unavoidable conflict, all directors are expected to attend the Annual Meeting. All of our directors attended the Annual Meeting in June 2009.

Our Board has four standing committees – Audit, Compensation, Governance and Public Policy. Each committee's charter is available on our Internet site at [www.CAT.com/governance](http://www.CAT.com/governance). Following is a description of each committee of the Board. Current committee memberships are listed in the "Committee Membership" table on page 14.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the integrity of Caterpillar's financial statements, Caterpillar's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the qualifications and independence of Caterpillar's Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (auditors), the performance of Caterpillar's internal audit function and the auditors, the effectiveness of Caterpillar's internal controls and the implementation and effectiveness of Caterpillar's ethics and compliance program. The Audit Committee performs this function by monitoring Caterpillar's financial reporting process and internal controls and by assessing the audit efforts of the auditors and the internal auditing department. The Audit Committee has ultimate authority and responsibility to appoint, retain, compensate, evaluate and, where appropriate, replace the auditors. The Audit Committee also reviews

updates on emerging accounting and auditing issues provided by the auditors and by management to assess their potential impact on Caterpillar. During 2009, the Audit Committee met 12 times and overall attendance was 95.83 percent. Daniel M. Dickinson, John T. Dillon, Gail D. Fosler and William A. Osborn, members of the Audit Committee, each meet the standards for independence set forth in the NYSE listing standards and the financial literacy standards adopted by the Board. Additionally, the Board has determined that Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Dillon and Mr. Osborn each qualify as an “audit committee financial expert” as defined under SEC rules.

The Compensation Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in connection with the compensation of the Company’s directors, officers and employees. It performs this function by establishing and overseeing the Company’s compensation programs, recommending to the Board the compensation of directors who are not officers of the Company, administering the Company’s equity compensation plans, furnishing an annual Compensation Committee Report on executive compensation and approving the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section in the Company’s proxy statement, in accordance with applicable SEC rules and regulations. All members of the Compensation Committee meet the standards for independence set forth in the NYSE listing standards. During 2009, the Compensation Committee met four times and overall attendance was 100 percent.

The Governance Committee assists the Board by making recommendations regarding the size and composition of the Board and the criteria to be used for the selection of candidates to serve on the Board. The Governance Committee discusses and evaluates the qualifications of directors up for re-election and recommends the slate of director candidates to be nominated for election at the Annual Meeting. Stockholders who are interested in nominating a director candidate can do so in accordance with the policy discussed in the “Governance Committee” section on page 18. In addition, the Governance Committee recommends candidates to the Board for election as officers of the Company. The Governance Committee also oversees the Corporate Governance Guidelines and leads the Board in its annual self-evaluation process and shares the results thereof with the Board for discussion and deliberation. All members of the Governance Committee meet the standards for independence set forth in the NYSE listing standards. During 2009, the Governance Committee met six times and overall attendance was 100 percent.

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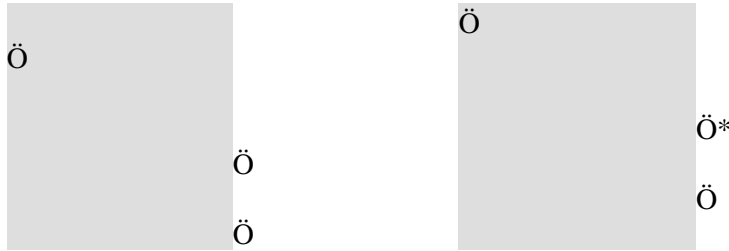
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The Public Policy Committee assists the Board in its oversight of matters of national and international public policy affecting the Company’s business, trade policy and international trade negotiations impacting the Company, major global legislative and regulatory developments both in the U.S. and internationally affecting the Company, investor, consumer and community relations issues, employee relations, implementation of policies promoting diversity within the Company, sustainable development initiatives and charitable and political contributions by the Company or by any committee or foundation affiliated with the Company. All members of the Public Policy Committee meet the standards for independence set forth in the NYSE listing standards. During 2009, the Public Policy Committee met five times and overall attendance was 100 percent.

Committee Membership

	Audit	Compensation	Governance	Public Policy
W. Frank Blount			Ö*	
John R. Brazil		Ö		
Daniel M. Dickinson	Ö			
John T. Dillon	Ö*			
Eugene V. Fife			Ö	
Gail D. Fosler	Ö			
Juan Gallardo				Ö
David R. Goode		Ö*		

Peter A. Magowan  
 William A. Osborn  
 James W. Owens  
 Charles D. Powell  
 Edward B. Rust, Jr.  
 Susan C. Schwab  
 Joshua I. Smith



\* Chairman of committee

**Communication with the Board**

You may communicate with any of our directors, our Board as a group, our non-management directors as a group or any Board committee as a group by sending an e-mail to a particular director, the Board or a committee at Directors@CAT.com or by mail to Caterpillar Inc. c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629. The Board has delegated to the Corporate Secretary, or his designee, responsibility for determining, in his discretion, whether the communication is appropriate for consideration by the Presiding Director, an individual director, a committee, a group or the full Board. According to the policy adopted by the Board, the Corporate Secretary is required to direct all communications regarding personal grievances, administrative matters, the conduct of the Company’s ordinary business operations, billing issues, product or service related inquiries, order requests and similar issues to the appropriate individual within the Company. All other communications are to be submitted to the Board as a group, to the particular director to whom it is directed or, if appropriate, to the Presiding Director or committee the Corporate Secretary believes to be the most appropriate recipient. If a legitimate business concern is sent by e-mail or letter to the Presiding Director, a specific director, the Board or a Board committee, you will receive a written acknowledgement from the Corporate Secretary’s office confirming receipt of your communication.

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**Code of Ethics**

Caterpillar’s code of ethics is called Our Values in Action (Code of Conduct). Integrity, Excellence, Teamwork and Commitment are the core values identified in the Code of Conduct and are the foundation for Caterpillar’s corporate strategy. The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the Board and to management and employees worldwide. It documents the high ethical standards that Caterpillar has upheld since its formation in 1925. The Code of Conduct is available on our Internet site at [www.CAT.com/code](http://www.CAT.com/code).

The Audit Committee has established a means for employees, suppliers, customers, stockholders and other interested parties to submit confidential and anonymous reports (where permitted by law) of suspected or actual violations of the Code of Conduct, our enterprise policies or applicable laws, including those related to accounting practices, internal controls or auditing matters and procedures; theft or fraud of any amount; insider trading; performance and execution of contracts; conflicts of interest; violation of securities and antitrust laws; and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Any employee, stockholder or other interested party can submit a report via the following methods:

§ Direct Telephone: 309-494-4393 (English only)

§ Call Collect Helpline: 770-582-5275 (language translation available)

§ Confidential Fax: 309-494-4818

§ E-mail: BusinessPractices@CAT.com

§ Internet: www.CAT.com/obp

## Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors (as defined for members of an audit committee in the NYSE listing standards) and operates under a written charter adopted by the Board, a copy of which is available on our Internet site at [www.CAT.com/governance](http://www.CAT.com/governance). Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls and the financial reporting process. The auditors are responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements and internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with standards established by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in the United States (PCAOB) and issuing a report thereon. The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring these processes. In this regard, the Audit Committee meets periodically with management, the internal auditors and auditors. The Audit Committee has the authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of its responsibilities and the authority to retain outside counsel, experts and other advisors as it determines appropriate to assist it in conducting any investigations. The Audit Committee is responsible for selecting and, if appropriate, replacing the current auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

The Audit Committee has discussed with the Company's auditors the overall scope and execution of the independent audit and has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with management. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. Discussions about the Company's audited financial statements included the auditors' judgments about the quality, not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements. The Audit Committee also discussed with the auditors other matters required by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 Communication with Audit Committees, as amended by SAS No. 90 Audit Committee Communications (as adopted by the PCAOB in Rule 3200T). Management, the internal auditors and the auditors also made presentations to the Audit Committee throughout the year on specific topics of interest, including: (i) management's philosophy, asset allocation levels, risk management and oversight of the Company's benefit and pension funds; (ii) accounting for the Company's pension funding obligations; (iii) the Company's derivatives policy and usage review; (iv) the 2009 joint audit plan; (v) updates on the implementation of the internal audit plan for 2009; (vi) the Company's information technology systems and the controls in place within those systems for compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (Sarbanes-Oxley Act); (vii) the applicability of new accounting releases; (viii) the Company's critical accounting policies; (ix) risk management initiatives and controls for various business units within the Company; (x) updates on the management of financial markets and liquidity risk; and (xi) the Company's compliance with the internal controls requirements under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

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The auditors provided to the Audit Committee the written communications required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent accountant's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee discussed the auditors' independence with management and the auditors. The Audit Committee concluded that the auditors' independence had not been impaired.

Based on: (i) the Audit Committee's discussions with management and the auditors; (ii) the Audit Committee's review of the representations of management; and (iii) the report of the auditors to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed with the SEC on February 19, 2010.

By the current members of the Audit Committee consisting of:

John T. Dillon (Chairman)  
Daniel M. Dickinson

Gail D. Fosler  
William A. Osborn

## Audit Fees and Approval Process

### Pre-Approval Process

The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the auditors. It has policies and procedures in place to ensure that the Company and its subsidiaries are in full compliance with the requirements for pre-approval set forth in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the SEC rules regarding auditor independence. These policies and procedures provide a mechanism whereby management can request and secure pre-approval of audit and non-audit services in an orderly manner with minimal disruption to normal business operations. The policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service and do not delegate the Audit Committee's responsibility to management. These policies and procedures address any service provided by the auditors and any audit or audit-related services to be provided by any other audit service provider. The pre-approval process includes an annual and interim component.

### Annual Pre-Approval Process

Annually, not later than the Audit Committee meeting held in April of each year, management and the auditors jointly submit a service matrix of the types of audit and non-audit services that management may wish to have the auditors perform for the year. The service matrix categorizes the types of services by audit, audit-related, tax and all other services. Approval of a service is merely an authorization that this type of service is permitted by the Audit Committee, subject to pre-approval of specific services. Management and the auditors jointly submit an annual pre-approval limits request. The request lists individual project and aggregate pre-approval limits by service category. The request also lists known or anticipated services and associated fees. The Audit Committee approves or rejects the pre-approval limits and each of the listed services. For 2009, the pre-approval limits were as follows:

Type of Service	Pre-Approval Limits (in thousands)	
	Per Project	Aggregate Limit
Audit Services	\$ 500	\$ 25,000
Audit-Related Services	\$ 500	\$ 10,000
Tax Services	\$ 500	\$ 15,000
All Other Services	\$ 500	\$ 1,000

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### Interim Pre-Approval Process

During the course of the year, the Audit Committee chairman has the authority to pre-approve requests for services that were not approved in the annual pre-approval process. Committee approval is not required for individual projects below the pre-approval project limits. However, all services, regardless of fee amounts, are subject to restrictions on



the services allowable under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and SEC rules regarding auditor independence. In addition, all fees are subject to on-going monitoring by the Audit Committee.

#### On-Going Monitoring

At each Audit Committee meeting subsequent to the Board meeting at which the service matrix and annual pre-approval limits request are approved, the chairman reports any interim pre-approvals since the last meeting. Also, at each of these meetings, management and the auditor provide the Audit Committee with an update of fees expected to be incurred for the year compared to amounts initially pre-approved.

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fee Information

Fees for professional services provided by our auditors included the following (in millions):

	2009 Actual	2008 Actual
Audit Fees 1	\$ 21.8	\$ 22.2
Audit-Related Fees 2	2.1	5.5
Tax Compliance Fees 3	1.9	2.8
Tax Planning and Consulting Fees 4	1.9	2.3
All Other Fees 5	0.1	0.3
TOTAL	\$ 27.8	\$ 33.1

- 1 “Audit Fees” principally include audit and review of financial statements (including internal control over financial reporting), statutory and subsidiary audits, SEC registration statements, comfort letters and consents.
- 2 “Audit-Related Fees” principally includes agreed upon procedures for securitizations, attestation services requested by management, accounting consultations, pre- or post- implementation reviews of processes or systems, financial due diligence and audits of employee benefit plan financial statements. Total fees paid directly by the benefit plans, and not by the Company, were \$0.6 in 2008 and 2009 and are not included in the amounts shown above.
- 3 “Tax Compliance Fees” includes, among other things, statutory tax return preparation and review and advising on the impact of changes in local tax laws.
- 4 “Tax Planning and Consulting Fees” includes, among other things, tax planning and advice and assistance with respect to transfer pricing issues.
- 5 “All Other Fees” principally includes subscriptions to knowledge tools and attendance at training classes/seminars.

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#### Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is comprised of three directors, all of whom meet the independence requirements for nominating committee members as defined in the NYSE listing standards and as determined by the Board in its business judgment. The Governance Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board, a copy of which is available on our Internet site at [www.CAT.com/governance](http://www.CAT.com/governance). As part of its mandate, the Governance Committee evaluates and makes recommendations regarding proposed candidates to serve on the Board, including recommending the slate of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting.

#### Director Resignation Policy

The Board has adopted a director resignation policy (Resignation Policy), which can be found in the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Resignation Policy establishes that any director who receives more “withheld” votes than

“for” votes in an uncontested election shall promptly tender his or her resignation. The independent directors of the Board will then evaluate the relevant facts and circumstances and make a decision, within 90 days after the election, on whether to accept the tendered resignation. The Board will promptly publicly disclose its decision and, if applicable, the reasons for rejecting the tendered resignation.

#### Process for Nominating Directors

The Governance Committee solicits and receives recommendations for potential director candidates from directors, the Chairman and Caterpillar management and may also utilize the services of a third party consultant to identify and evaluate potential nominees. The Governance Committee also considers unsolicited inquiries and nominees recommended by stockholders in accordance with the following procedures and in compliance with the Company’s Bylaws.

When considering a candidate, the Governance Committee believes that certain characteristics are essential. For example, candidates must be individuals of high integrity, honesty and accountability, with a willingness to express independent thought. Candidates must also have successful leadership experience and stature in their primary fields, with a background that demonstrates an understanding of business affairs as well as the complexities of a large, publicly held company. Particular consideration will be given to candidates with experience as a chief executive officer of successful, capital-intensive businesses with international operations. In addition, candidates must have a demonstrated ability to think strategically and make decisions with a forward-looking focus and the ability to assimilate relevant information on a broad range of complex topics.

The Governance Committee also believes that certain characteristics are desirable, such as being a team player with a demonstrated willingness to ask tough questions in a constructive manner that adds to the decision-making process of the Board. At the same time, candidates should be independent, with an absence of conflicts of interests. Moreover, candidates should have the ability to devote the time necessary to meet director responsibilities and serve on no more than five public company boards in addition to the Board. Candidates must also have the ability to commit to stock ownership requirements according to the Company’s Corporate Governance Guidelines.

#### Stockholder Nominations

In accordance with the Company’s Bylaws, stockholders may nominate a director candidate to serve on the Board by providing advance written notice to Caterpillar Inc. c/o Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629. Written notice of an intent to nominate a director candidate at an Annual Meeting must be given either by personal delivery or by United States mail, postage prepaid, to Caterpillar Inc. at the address previously provided no later than ninety (90) days in advance of such meeting. The notice must state: (i) the name and address of the stockholder who intends to make the nomination and of the person or persons to be nominated; (ii) a representation that the nominating stockholder is a stockholder of record of the Company’s stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice; (iii) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the stockholder; (iv) such other information regarding each nominee proposed by such stockholder as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the SEC, had the nominee been nominated, or intended to be nominated, by the Board; and (v) the consent of each nominee to serve as a director of the Company if so elected. The presiding officer of the Annual Meeting may refuse to acknowledge the nomination of any person not made in compliance with the foregoing procedure. You may request a copy of the Company’s Bylaws by writing to the Corporate Secretary at 100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629.

Company Proposals

PROPOSAL 1 — Election of Directors

The Board has nominated the following directors to stand for election for a three-year term expiring at the Annual Meeting in 2012. The nominees were evaluated and recommended by the Governance Committee in accordance with the process for nominating directors described on page 18.

Directors are elected by a plurality vote of the shares present or represented at the meeting and entitled to vote, meaning that director nominees with the most affirmative votes are elected to fill the available seats.

If at least 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company are voted in favor of Company Proposal 4 to amend our Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws to declassify the Board, each director elected at the 2010 annual meeting will hold office until the 2011 annual meeting. At the 2011 annual meeting, all of our directors' terms would automatically expire, and all directors would stand for election on an annual basis thereafter.

If at least 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company are not voted in favor of Company Proposal 4, there will be no change to our directors' terms of office, or to the class structure of the Board and directors elected at the Annual Meeting will hold office for a three-year term expiring at the 2013 annual meeting. Directors in the other two classes will continue in office for the remainder of their terms.

Class III – Directors nominated for election at the Annual Meeting

§JOHN T. DILLON, 71, Senior Managing Director and former Vice Chairman of Evercore Partners (advisory and investment firm). Other current directorships: E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and Kellogg Co. Other directorships within the last five years: Vertis Inc. Mr. Dillon has been a director of the Company since 1997.

The Board believes that Mr. Dillon's prior experience as a chief executive officer of a large, publicly-traded multinational corporation, knowledge of the forest products industry and experience with trade-related issues is particularly valuable to the Board. In addition, his financial expertise and experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

Mr. Dillon will turn 72 this year and is expected to retire from the Board on or before December 31, 2010, pursuant to our mandatory director retirement age set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines.

§JUAN GALLARDO, 62, Chairman and former CEO of Grupo Embotelladoras Unidas S.A. de C.V. (bottling). Former Vice Chairman of Home Mart de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (retail trade), former Chairman of Grupo Azucarero Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (sugar mills) and former Chairman of Mexico Fund Inc. (mutual fund). Other current directorships: Grupo Mexico, S.A. de C.V. and Lafarge SA. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Gallardo has been a director of the Company since 1998.

The Board believes that Mr. Gallardo's international business experience, particularly in Latin America and South America, are important for the Company's growth strategy. His extensive background in trade-related issues also contributes to the Board's expertise. In addition, his experience as a chief executive officer and director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ WILLIAM A. OSBORN, 62, retired Chairman and CEO of Northern Trust Corporation (multibank holding company) and The Northern Trust Company (bank). Other current directorships: Abbott Laboratories and General Dynamics. Other directorships within the last five years: Nicor Inc., Tribune Company and Northern Trust Corporation. Mr. Osborn has been a director of the Company since 2000.

The Board believes that Mr. Osborn's financial expertise and experience is valuable to the Board. His experience as a chairman and chief executive officer of a large, publicly-traded multinational corporation is particularly important to the Board. In addition, his experience as a director of other large, publicly-traded corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

§ EDWARD B. RUST, JR., 59, Chairman, CEO and President of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (insurance). He is also President and CEO of State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Life Insurance Company and other principal State Farm affiliates as well as Trustee and President of State Farm Mutual Fund Trust and State Farm Variable Product Trust. Other current directorships: Helmerich & Payne, Inc. and The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. Other directorships within the last five years: none. Mr. Rust has been a director of the Company since 2003.

The Board believes that Mr. Rust's financial and business experience is valuable to the Board. His role as a chief executive officer of a major national corporation and experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables him to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company. In addition, his extensive involvement in education improvement compliments the Company's culture of social responsibility.

§ SUSAN C. SCHWAB, 55, Professor, University of Maryland School of Public Policy. Prior to her current position, Ambassador Schwab held various positions including United States Trade Representative (member of the President's cabinet), Deputy United States Trade Representative and President and CEO of the University System of Maryland Foundation. Other current directorships: FedEx Corporation and The Boeing Company. Other directorships within the last five years: Adams Express Company, Calpine Corporation and Petroleum & Resources Corporation. Ambassador Schwab has been a director of the Company since 2009.

The Board believes that Ambassador Schwab brings extensive knowledge, insight and experience on international trade issues to the Board. Her educational experience and role as the U.S. Trade Representative provide important insights for the Company's global business model and long-standing support of open trade. In addition, her experience as a director of large, publicly-traded multinational corporations enables her to provide meaningful input and guidance to the Board and the Company.

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS VOTING "FOR" THE NOMINEES PRESENTED IN PROPOSAL 1.**

#### **PROPOSAL 2 — Ratification of our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board seeks an indication from stockholders of their approval or disapproval of the Audit Committee's appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for 2010.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has been our auditors since 1925. For additional information regarding the Company's relationship with PricewaterhouseCoopers, please refer to the "Audit Committee Report" on page 15 and the "Audit Fees

and Approval Process” disclosure on page 16.

If the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors for 2010 is not approved by the stockholders, the adverse vote will be considered a direction to the Audit Committee to consider other auditors for next year. However, because of the difficulty in making any substitution of auditors so long after the beginning of the current year, the appointment for the year 2010 will stand, unless the Audit Committee finds other good reason for making a change.

Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers will be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so. The representatives will also be available to respond to questions at the meeting.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND VOTING “FOR” PROPOSAL 2.

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### PROPOSAL 3 — Amend 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan

The Board has adopted and recommends that you approve amendments to the Caterpillar Inc. 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan (Plan) that would: (i) increase the number of shares authorized for issuance under the Plan; (ii) increase the limitation on the number of authorized shares that may be issued regarding restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares; (iii) expressly prohibit the exchange of underwater options and/or stock appreciation rights (SARs) for cash; (iv) further restrict the Plan’s definition of change of control; (v) clarify that shares withheld for the payment of taxes will not be made available for additional grants; and (vi) make certain other clarifications to the provisions of the Plan document. Under the current terms of the Plan, the Company is authorized to issue a total of 37,600,000 shares, of which, approximately 7,000,000 shares remain available for future grants. We are asking that you approve an additional 20,000,000 shares for issuance under the Plan. This proposed amendment would increase the shares available for future grants under the Plan to approximately 27,000,000.

By increasing the number of shares authorized under the Plan and increasing the limitation on the number of authorized shares that may be issued regarding restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares, the Company believes it will have the flexibility to continue to provide equity incentives in amounts and forms determined appropriate by the Compensation Committee (Committee) over the next three to four years. The Company’s average annual burn rate for 2007 through 2009, which is the total number of net shares subject to equity awards granted in a given year divided by the total number of shares of Caterpillar stock outstanding, was 1.16 percent. If stockholders approve these amendments, the total number of shares available for grants under the Plan, plus the number of shares subject to outstanding awards under all the Company’s current and prior equity plans as of March 31, 2010, would be approximately 101,320,000 shares. As of the record date, the total number of shares of Caterpillar stock outstanding was approximately 628 million.

The purpose of the Plan is to further the Company’s compensation philosophy, as outlined in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Specifically, the Plan allows the Board to provide key present and future employees and members of the Board with cash-based incentives, stock-based incentives and other equity interests in the Company, thereby giving them a stake in the growth and prosperity of the Company, aligning their interests with those of stockholders and encouraging the continuance of their services with the Company and its subsidiaries.

The Board desires to ensure the Company’s continued ability to offer cash and equity based compensation to its key employees. The Board believes this type of compensation is critical to its ability to attract and retain highly qualified individuals and otherwise attain the goals described above. Recognizing the importance of the Company’s

broad-based equity compensation program and its effectiveness in meeting the Board's goals, the Committee and the Board approved these amendments to the Plan and hereby submit them to the Company's stockholders for approval.

Stockholder approval of these amendments is required by NYSE rules. The affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the Company's common stock present or represented at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote is required to approve the Plan amendments. If stockholders do not approve these amendments, the Plan will remain in full force and effect through June 13, 2016, without giving effect to the proposed amendments.

The following is a summary of the principal features of the Plan, including the proposed amendments. This summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the amendments and restatement of the Plan with the proposed changes highlighted (attached as Appendix A). Stockholders are encouraged to read the text of the Plan in its entirety.

The amendments to the Plan will become effective upon stockholder approval.

Approval of the amendments to the Plan will also constitute re-approval, for purposes of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (Code), of the performance goals included in the Plan (described below) that are to be used in connection with awards under the Plan that are intended to qualify as "performance-based" compensation for purposes of Section 162(m).

#### Administration

The Plan is administered by the Committee, or by another committee appointed by the Board. The Committee consists of at least two persons and Committee members must be "non-employee directors," as defined under Rule 16b-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and "outside directors" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code. The full Board performs the functions of the Committee for purposes of granting awards to non-employee directors.

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The Committee also has full authority to interpret the Plan and to establish rules for its administration. Further, the Committee makes all other determinations that may be necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The Committee has the authority to select the employees, prospective employees and directors who may participate in the Plan and to determine the size and types of awards, the number of shares subject to awards and the terms and conditions of these awards in accordance with the terms of the Plan. Subject to certain limitations, the Committee may delegate its authority under the Plan to one or more members of the Committee or one or more officers or other designees of Caterpillar.

#### Shares Subject to the Plan and Maximum Awards

As amended, the Plan provides that the number of shares of Caterpillar stock that may be issued will not exceed 40 million shares, subject to certain adjustments. In addition, 17.6 million shares of Caterpillar stock that were authorized for the Caterpillar Inc. 1996 Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Plan (1996 Plan) but that have not been issued and that were not subject to outstanding grants pursuant to the 1996 Plan as of the date of adoption of the Plan were reserved and available for grant under the Plan. Thus, if the amendment is approved, the total number of shares that may be issued under the Plan will not exceed 57,600,000.

The per share closing price of Caterpillar stock on the NYSE on March 31, 2010 was \$62.85. Caterpillar will register the additional shares issuable under the Plan under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, after it receives stockholder approval.

Of the shares authorized for issuance under the Plan, the maximum aggregate number of shares (including stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock and restricted stock units and performance shares to be paid out in shares) that may be granted in any one fiscal year to a single participant is 800,000 shares. The maximum aggregate cash payout (including performance units and performance shares paid out in cash but excluding cash-settled SARs) with respect to awards granted in any one fiscal year that may be made to a single participant is \$5 million. As amended, the Plan also provides that only 35 percent of the shares authorized under the Plan may be issued in connection with awards of restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares. Prior to the amendment, this limitation was 20 percent of the shares authorized under the Plan.

To the extent that shares of Company stock subject to an outstanding award under the Plan are not issued by reason of expiration, forfeiture or cancellation of such award, by reason of the tendering or withholding of shares to pay all or a portion of the exercise price or by reason of being settled in cash in lieu of shares, then such shares will immediately again be available for issuance under the Plan. Shares underlying awards granted in substitution for awards previously granted by an entity acquired by Caterpillar will not be counted against the Plan limit.

Shares of Company stock issued with respect to awards may be authorized but unissued shares or treasury shares. In the event there is a change in the capital structure of the Company as a result of any stock dividend or split, recapitalization, merger, consolidation or spin-off or other corporate change affecting the shares, the number of shares of Company stock authorized for issuance, available for issuance or covered by any outstanding award and the price per share of any such award, and the various limitations described above, will be proportionately adjusted. Fractional shares will not be issued under the Plan.

The Plan limit is reduced on a one-for-one basis based upon the number of shares of Company stock for which an award is granted or denominated. An award of SARs reduces the Plan limit on a one-for-one basis based upon the number of shares of Company stock actually delivered pursuant to the SAR and any shares withheld for the payment of taxes.

#### Eligibility and Participation

Any director, or current or future employee (including officer) of Caterpillar or any of its subsidiaries is eligible to receive an award under the Plan, except that incentive stock options may only be granted to persons who are employed by the Company or its subsidiaries and only if the recipient does not own more than 10 percent of Caterpillar's stock. Caterpillar currently has approximately 94,000 employees and 15 directors. The selection of participants and the nature and size of the awards granted to participants is subject to the discretion of the Committee.

#### Awards

The Plan provides for awards of stock options to purchase shares of Company stock, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares and performance units, the general terms and conditions of which are described in more detail below.

**Stock Options.** Stock options may be nonqualified stock options or incentive stock options that comply with Section 422 of the Code. Each stock option grant will be evidenced by an award document. If the award document does not specify the time the stock option will first become exercisable, the stock option will become fully vested and exercisable by the participant on the third anniversary of the grant date. Each stock option may be exercised in whole or in part, from time to time, after the grant becomes exercisable. The Plan limits the term of any stock option to ten years and prohibits repricing of stock options without stockholder approval. As amended, the Plan would also prohibit the exchange of underwater options for cash.

The exercise price per share for all shares of Caterpillar stock issued pursuant to stock options under the Plan will be determined by the Committee but may not be less than 100 percent of the fair market value of a share of Caterpillar stock on the grant date. The exercise price of a stock option may be paid in cash, by tendering previously acquired shares or through a cashless exercise procedure.

Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs). SARs entitle a participant to receive an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of a share of Caterpillar stock on the date the SAR is exercised over the fair market value of a share of Company stock on the date the SAR is granted, multiplied by the number of shares to which the SAR is exercised. The payment may be made in shares of Caterpillar stock having a fair market value on the date of exercise equal to the amount due upon the exercise of the SAR, may be paid in cash or a combination thereof.

The Committee may grant SARs under the Plan alone or in tandem with stock options. SARs that are granted alone must be granted with a per share exercise price not less than 100 percent of the fair market value of a share of Company stock on the date of grant. The grant price of tandem SARs will equal the option price of the related stock option. The Plan limits the term of SARs to 10 years from the grant date and prohibits repricing of SARs without stockholder approval. The Plan also prohibits the exchange of underwater SARs for cash.

SARs granted alone may be exercised upon the terms and conditions the Committee, in its sole discretion, imposes upon them in the award document. SARs granted in tandem with stock options may be exercised for all or part of the shares subject to the related stock option upon the surrender of the right to exercise the equivalent portion of the related stock option. A tandem SAR may be exercised only with respect to the shares for which its related stock option is then exercisable. With respect to a tandem SAR granted in connection with an incentive stock option: (i) the tandem SAR will expire no later than the expiration of the underlying incentive stock option; (ii) the value of the payout with respect to the tandem SAR may be for no more than 100 percent of the difference between the option price of the underlying incentive stock option and the fair market value of the shares subject to the underlying incentive stock option at the time the tandem SAR is exercised; and (iii) the tandem SAR may be exercised only when the fair market value of the shares subject to the incentive stock option exceeds the option price of the incentive stock option.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. An award of restricted stock is a share of Company stock granted to the participant that may not be sold or otherwise disposed of during a restricted period as determined by the Committee in the award document. The Committee may impose such conditions and/or restrictions on any shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to the Plan as it may deem advisable including without limitation, a requirement that shares will not be issued until the end of the applicable period of restriction (i.e., a restricted stock unit), restrictions based upon the achievement of specific performance goals (company-wide, subsidiary-wide, divisional and/or individual), time-based restrictions on vesting, which may or may not be following the attainment of the performance goals, sales restrictions under applicable stockholder agreements or similar agreements, a requirement that participants pay a stipulated purchase price for each share of restricted stock and/or restrictions under applicable federal or state securities laws.

Restriction periods must be at least three years for time-based restrictions. However, a maximum of 5 percent of the aggregate shares authorized for issuance of restricted stock, restricted stock units or performance shares may be issued as restricted stock or restricted stock units with no minimum vesting periods. If the period of restriction is not set forth in the award document, the transfer and any other restrictions will lapse (i) to the extent of one-third of the shares (rounded to the nearest whole) covered by the restricted stock award on the third anniversary of the grant date, (ii) to the extent of two-thirds of the shares (rounded to the nearest whole) covered by the restricted stock award on the fourth anniversary of the grant date and (iii) to the extent of 100 percent of the shares covered by the restricted stock award on the fifth anniversary of the grant date.

For awards of restricted stock (but not for restricted stock units), the participant may have all rights as a holder of shares of Caterpillar stock except that the restricted shares cannot be sold, transferred, assigned, pledged or otherwise encumbered or disposed of until the end of the restriction period established by the Committee and specified in the



award document, or upon earlier satisfaction of any other conditions, as specified by the Committee in its sole discretion and set forth in the award document.

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**Performance Shares and Performance Units.** Performance shares and performance units are awards of a fixed or variable number of shares or of dollar-denominated units that are earned by achievement of performance goals established by the Committee. Amounts earned under performance shares and performance units may be paid in shares of Caterpillar stock, cash or a combination thereof.

The terms and conditions of the performance awards are determined by the Committee, and the granting, vesting and/or exercisability of performance awards are conditioned on the achievement in whole or in part of performance goals (as described below) during a performance period as selected by the Committee. At the sole discretion of the Committee, participants may be entitled to receive any dividends declared with respect to shares that have been earned in connection with grants of performance units and/or performance shares that have been earned, but not yet distributed to participants.

Performance units and/or performance shares may not be sold or transferred, other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution. Further, except as otherwise provided in the award document, a participant's rights under the Plan will be exercisable during the participant's lifetime only by the participant or the participant's legal representative.

#### Performance Goals

Section 162(m) of the Code limits publicly-held companies such as the Company to an annual deduction for federal income tax purposes of \$1 million for compensation paid to each of their "covered employees." Generally, "covered employees" are the CEO and the three other most highly compensated officers, other than the CFO, who are named in the summary compensation table of the Company's proxy statement each year. However, performance-based compensation is excluded from this limitation. The Plan is designed to permit the Committee to grant awards that qualify, to the extent possible, as performance-based for purposes of satisfying the conditions of Section 162(m).

Under the Plan, the Committee may condition the grant, vesting and/or exercisability of any award, including, but not limited to, performance shares and performance units, upon the attainment of performance targets related to one or more performance goals over a performance period selected by the Committee. The Committee may reduce any award below the maximum amount that could be paid based upon the degree to which the performance targets related to such award were attained. However, the Committee may not increase any award that is intended to satisfy the exception for "qualified performance-based compensation" set forth in Section 162(m) of the Code above the maximum amount that could be paid based on the attainment of performance targets.

For any awards that are intended to satisfy the Section 162(m) exception for "qualified performance-based compensation," the awards will be subject to one or more, or any combination, of the following performance goals which will be established by the Committee in writing and stated in terms of the attainment of specified levels of or percentage changes in any one or more of the following measurements: (i) revenue; (ii) primary or fully-diluted earnings per share; (iii) earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and/or amortization; (iv) pretax income; (v) cash flow from operations; (vi) total cash flow; (vii) return on equity; (viii) return on invested capital; (ix) return on assets; (x) net operating profits after taxes; (xi) economic value added; (xii) total stockholder return; (xiii) return on sales; or (xiv) any individual performance objective which is measured solely in terms of quantifiable targets related to the Company or the businesses of the Company; or any combination thereof. In addition, such performance goals may be based in whole or in part upon the performance of the Company, a subsidiary, division and/or other operational unit under one or more of such measures. Further, for any awards that are not intended to satisfy the Section 162(m) exception, the Committee may establish performance targets based on other performance goals, as it deems

appropriate.

#### Award Forfeitures

Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, in the case of a forfeiture event, the following forfeitures will result:

- The unexercised portion of any stock option, whether or not vested, and any other award not then settled (except for an award that has not been settled solely due to an elective deferral by the participant and otherwise is not forfeitable in the event of any termination of service of the participant) will be immediately forfeited and canceled upon the occurrence of the forfeiture event; and
- The participant will be obligated to repay to Caterpillar, in cash, within five business days after demand is made by Caterpillar, the total amount of award gain (as defined in the Plan) realized by the participant upon each exercise of a stock option or settlement of an award (regardless of any elective deferral) that occurred on or after (i) the date that is six months before the occurrence of the forfeiture event, if the forfeiture event occurred while the participant was employed by Caterpillar or a subsidiary, or (ii) the date that is six months before the date the participant's employment by, or service as a director with Caterpillar or a subsidiary terminated, if the forfeiture event occurred after the participant ceased to be employed.

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**Forfeiture Events.** The forfeiture of an award will be triggered upon either (i) the violation by a participant of certain non-solicitation provisions or (ii) the participant's disclosure to any person or entity, or the participant's unauthorized use of any "confidential or proprietary information" (as defined in the Plan) at any time during the participant's employment or service as a director with Caterpillar or a subsidiary or during the one-year period following termination of such employment or service.

**Waivers.** The Committee may, in its sole discretion, waive in whole or in part the Company's right to forfeiture. In addition, the Committee may impose additional conditions on awards, by inclusion of appropriate provisions in the award document.

#### Clawback

Any Plan participant who is an officer of the Company and whose negligent, intentional or gross misconduct contributes to the Company having to restate all or a portion of its financial statements, will be required to forfeit awards granted under the Plan and repay the Company the total amounts realized by the participant upon the exercise of an option or settlement of an award.

#### Change of Control

If any participant's (i.e., an officer employee's, a non-officer employee's or director's) employment or service with the Company and/or any subsidiary terminates either without cause or for good reason within the 12 month period following a change of control (as defined in the Plan), unless otherwise specifically prohibited under applicable laws, or by the rules and regulations of any governmental agencies or national securities exchanges:

- All stock options and SARs granted will become immediately exercisable, and shall remain exercisable throughout their entire term;
  - Any period of restriction and other restrictions imposed on restricted stock will lapse;
  - All restricted stock units will become fully vested; and
- Unless otherwise specified in an award document, the maximum payout opportunities attainable under all outstanding awards of performance units and performance shares will be deemed to have been fully earned for the entire performance period(s) as of the effective date of the change of control. The vesting of all such awards will be accelerated as of the effective date of the change of control, and in full settlement of such awards, there shall be paid out in cash to participants within 30 days following the effective date of the change of control the maximum of

payout opportunities associated with such outstanding awards.

#### Other Provisions

The Committee may provide that the receipt of payment of cash or the delivery of shares that would otherwise be due to a participant under an award may be deferred at the election of the participant pursuant to an applicable deferral plan established by the Company or a subsidiary.

The Committee may make awards on terms and conditions other than those described above or in the Plan to comply with the laws and regulations of any foreign jurisdiction or to make the award effective under such laws or regulations.

The Committee may, at its discretion, accelerate the vesting of options, SARs, restricted stock and restricted stock units, performance units and performance shares at any time. The Committee may also, at its discretion, extend the period during which an option or SAR is exercisable following a participant's termination of employment or services.

No award will be construed as giving any participant a right to receive future awards or to continued employment or service with the Company.

#### U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

**Incentive Stock Options.** The grant of an incentive stock option will not be a taxable event for the participant or for the Company. A participant will not recognize taxable income upon exercise of an incentive stock option (except that the alternative minimum tax may apply), and any gain realized upon a disposition of Caterpillar stock received pursuant to the exercise of an incentive stock option will be taxed as long-term capital gain if the participant holds the shares of Company stock for at least two years after the date of grant and for one year after the date of exercise (holding period requirement). The Company will not be entitled to any income tax deduction with respect to the exercise of an incentive stock option, except as discussed below.

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For the exercise of an incentive stock option to qualify for the foregoing tax treatment, the participant generally must be an employee of the Company or an employee of a Company subsidiary from the date the option is granted through a date within three months before the date of exercise of the option. If all of the foregoing requirements are met except the holding period requirement mentioned above, the participant will recognize ordinary income upon the disposition of the Company stock in an amount generally equal to the excess of the fair market value of the Company stock at the time the option was exercised over the option exercise price (but not in excess of the gain realized on the sale). The balance of the realized gain, if any, will be capital gain. The Company will be allowed an income tax deduction to the extent the participant recognizes ordinary income, subject to the Company's compliance with Section 162(m) of the Code and to certain reporting requirements.

**Nonqualified Stock Options.** The grant of a nonqualified stock option will not be a taxable event for the participant or the Company. Upon exercising a nonqualified stock option, a participant will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the Company stock on the date of exercise. Upon a subsequent sale or exchange of shares acquired pursuant to the exercise of a nonqualified stock option, the participant will have taxable capital gain or loss, measured by the difference between the amount realized on the disposition and the tax basis of the shares of Company stock (generally, the amount paid for the shares plus the amount treated as ordinary income at the time the option was exercised). If the Company complies with applicable reporting requirements and with the restrictions of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company generally will be entitled to an income tax deduction in the same amount and generally at the same time as the participant recognizes ordinary income.

Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units. A participant who is awarded restricted stock will not recognize any taxable income for federal income tax purposes in the year of the award, provided that the shares of Company stock are subject to restrictions (that is, the restricted stock is nontransferable and subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture). However, if shares are issued at the time of grant, the participant may elect under Section 83(b) of the Code to recognize compensation income in the year of the award in an amount equal to the fair market value of the Company stock on the date of the award (less the purchase price, if any), determined without regard to the restrictions. If the participant does not make such a Section 83(b) election, the fair market value of the Company stock on the date the restrictions lapse (less the purchase price, if any) will be treated as compensation income to the participant and will be taxable in the year the restrictions lapse and dividends paid while the Caterpillar stock is subject to restrictions will be treated as compensation income and may be subject to withholding taxes. If, on the other hand, shares are not issued until after the restriction period ends (i.e., restricted stock units), the participant is not eligible to make an election under Section 83(b) of the Code. If the Company complies with applicable reporting requirements and with the restrictions of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company generally will be entitled to an income tax deduction in the same amount and generally at the same time as the participant recognizes ordinary income.

Generally, there are no immediate tax consequences of receiving an award of restricted stock units under the Plan, provided the restricted stock units are subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture. Upon vesting of the restricted stock units, a participant will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the value of the fair market value of Company stock on the date shares are issued. If the Company complies with applicable reporting requirements and, if applicable, with the restrictions of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company generally will be entitled to an income tax deduction in the same amount and generally at the same time as the participant recognizes ordinary income.

Stock-Settled Stock Appreciation Rights. There are no immediate tax consequences of receiving an award of stock-settled SARs under the Plan. Upon exercising a stock appreciation right, a participant will recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the Company stock on the date of exercise. If the Company complies with applicable reporting requirements and, if applicable, with the restrictions of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company generally will be entitled to an income tax deduction in the same amount and generally at the same time as the participant recognizes ordinary income.

Performance Awards. The award of a performance award will have no federal income tax consequences for the Company or for the participant. The payment of the award is taxable to a participant as ordinary income. If the Company complies with applicable reporting requirements and, if applicable, with the restrictions of Section 162(m) of the Code, the Company generally will be entitled to an income tax deduction in the same amount and generally at the same time as the participant recognizes ordinary income.

**YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE RECOMMEND VOTING “FOR” PROPOSAL 3.**

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Required information relating to securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans is included in the following table:

Equity Compensation Plan Information (as of December 31, 2009)			
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Plan category			

	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights <sup>1</sup>	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	68,021,668	\$44.2440	16,229,601
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	68,021,668	\$44.2440	16,229,601

1 Excludes any cash payments in-lieu-of stock.

## PROPOSAL 4 —

Amend Restated  
Certificate of  
Incorporation and  
Bylaws to Provide for  
Annual Election of  
Directors

The Board proposes the annual election of directors.

The Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation (Certificate of Incorporation) and Bylaws currently provide that the Board is to be divided into three classes of directors, with each class elected every three years. On the recommendation of the Governance Committee, your Board has approved amendments to the Company's Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws to provide for the annual election of directors. Stockholder proposals seeking to implement the annual election of directors were brought before stockholders in 2008 and 2009, and received the vote of more than 69 percent and 65 percent, respectively, of the votes cast at each annual meeting of stockholders.

Each director will stand for re-election annually beginning at the 2011 annual meeting.

If approved, this proposal would become effective upon the filing of an amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation containing the proposed amendments with the Secretary of State of Delaware, which the Company intends to do promptly after the required stockholder approval is obtained. Upon filing, each director elected at the 2010 Annual Meeting would hold office until the 2011 annual meeting. At the 2011 annual meeting, all of our current directors' terms would expire, and all directors would stand for election at the 2011 annual meeting and on an annual basis thereafter. For example, directors elected in 2009 would serve until 2011 and stand for election annually thereafter rather than for their originally elected three-year term expiring in 2012. At all times, directors will serve until their successors have been elected and qualified. This proposal would not change the present number of directors, and it would not change the Board's authority to change that number and to fill any vacancies or newly created directorships.

Subsections (b), (c), (d) and (f) of the SIXTH provision of the Certificate of Incorporation and subsections (b), (c) and (f) of Section 1, Election of Directors, of Article III of the Bylaws contain the provisions that will be affected if this proposal is adopted.

#### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of no less than 75 percent of the outstanding shares is needed to adopt these amendments.

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#### Background of Proposal

This proposal is a result of the Board's ongoing review of corporate governance matters. The Board, assisted by the Governance Committee, considered the benefits and disadvantages of maintaining the classified board structure. The Board considered the view of some stockholders who believe that classified boards (i) encourage management entrenchment and self-dealing, (ii) have the effect of reducing the accountability of directors to stockholders because stockholders are unable to elect all directors on an annual basis and (iii) discourage possible bids to purchase the Company because classified boards prevent a hostile bidder from removing all directors at a single meeting.

The Board also considered the benefits of retaining the classified board structure, which has a long history in corporate law. Proponents of a classified structure believe it (i) provides continuity and stability in the management of the business and affairs of a company, (ii) enhances long-term planning and (iii) helps attract and retain director candidates. Proponents also assert that classified boards may enhance stockholder value by forcing an entity seeking control of a target company to initiate arms-length discussions with the board of that company. While the Board recognizes those potential benefits, it also recognizes that even without a classified board, the Company has other means that may allow it to compel a takeover bidder to negotiate with the Board, including certain provisions in its Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws.

On the recommendation of the Governance Committee and after due deliberation based on the facts and data presented, your Board, subject to the approval of no less than 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company, approved the proposed amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, and now recommends that you approve them.

The proposed amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws to declassify the Board are described in more detail below. Appendix B to this proxy statement sets out the Certificate of Incorporation and Appendix C to this proxy statement sets out the Bylaws, each including these proposed amendments.

#### Certificate of Incorporation

• SIXTH:

(b)The Board of Directors shall be and is divided into three classes: Class I, Class II and Class III, which shall be as nearly equal in number as possible. Each director shall serve At each annual meeting of stockholders, directors shall be elected for a term of office to expire at the next annual meeting of stockholders, with each director to ending on the date of the third annual meeting of stockholders following the annual meeting at which the director was elected, provided, however, that each initial director in Class I shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1987; each initial director in Class II shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1988; and each initial director in Class III shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1989. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article, each director shall serve until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until his death, resignation or removal.

- (c) In the event of any increase or decrease in the authorized number of directors, the newly created or eliminated directorships resulting from such increase or decrease shall be apportioned by the Board of Directors among the three classes of directors so as to maintain such classes as nearly equal as possible. No decrease in the number of directors constituting the Board of Directors shall shorten the term of any incumbent director.
- (d) Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the number of directors and any vacancies on the Board of Directors resulting from death, resignation, disqualification, removal or other cause shall be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors then in office (and not by stockholders), even though less than a quorum of the Board of Directors. Any director elected in accordance with the preceding sentence shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the new directorship was created or the vacancy occurred and until such director's successor shall have been elected and qualified.
- (f) Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever the holders of any one or more classes or series of stock issued by this corporation having a preference over the common stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, shall have the right, voting separately by class or series, to elect directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, the election, term of office, filling of vacancies, terms of removal and other features of such directorships shall be governed by the terms of Article FOURTH and the resolution or resolutions establishing such class or series adopted pursuant thereto and such directors so elected shall not be divided into classes pursuant to this Article SIXTH unless expressly provided by such terms.

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## Bylaws

• Article III – Section 1. Election of Directors:

- (b) Election and Terms of Directors. Each director shall serve for a term of office to expire at the next annual meeting of stockholders, with each director to Classes of Directors. The board of directors shall be and is divided into three classes: Class I, Class II and Class III, which shall be as nearly equal in number as possible. Each director shall serve for a term ending on the date of the third annual meeting of stockholders following the annual meeting at which the director was elected; provided, however, that each initial director in Class I shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1987; each initial director in Class II shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1988; and each initial director in Class III shall hold office until the annual meeting of stockholders in 1989. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subsection (b), each director shall serve until his successor is duly elected and qualified or until his death, resignation or removal.
- (c) Newly Created Directorships and Vacancies. In the event of any increase or decrease in the authorized number of directors, the newly created or eliminated directorships resulting from such increase or decrease shall be apportioned by the board of directors among the three classes of directors so as to maintain such classes as nearly equal in number as possible. No decrease in the number of directors constituting the board of directors shall shorten the term of any incumbent director. Newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the number of directors and any vacancies on the board of directors resulting from death, resignation, disqualification, removal or other cause shall be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors then in office (and not by stockholders), even though less than a quorum of the board of directors. Any director elected in accordance with the preceding sentence shall hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the new directorship was created or the vacancy occurred and until such director's successor shall have been elected and qualified.

(f) Preferred Stock Provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever the holders of any one or more classes or series of stock issued by this corporation having a preference over the common stock as to dividends or upon liquidation, shall have the right, voting separately by class or series, to elect directors at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, the election, term of office, filling of vacancies, nominations, terms of removal and other features of such directorships shall be governed by the terms of Article FOURTH of the certificate of incorporation and the resolution or resolutions establishing such class or series adopted pursuant thereto and such directors so elected shall not be divided into classes pursuant to Article SIXTH of the certificate of incorporation unless expressly provided by such terms.

FOR THESE REASONS, YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS VOTING “FOR” PROPOSAL 4.

## PROPOSAL 5

— Amend Restated  
Certificate of  
Incorporation and  
Bylaws to Eliminate  
Supermajority Voting  
Requirements

The Board proposes replacing supermajority voting requirements with a simple majority of outstanding shares requirement.

We are proposing amendments to our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws that would remove any requirements for a supermajority vote of at least 75 percent of the outstanding stock of the Company.

The Company’s Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws currently require a supermajority vote of at least 75 percent of the outstanding shares of the Company to alter, amend or repeal provisions relating to (i) procedures and processes for the election and removal of directors, (ii) special meetings and shareholder actions by written consent, and (iii) policies and procedures relating to the annual meeting. This proposed amendment would reduce the required stockholder approval for these actions to a simple majority of outstanding shares.

### Vote Required

The affirmative vote of no less than 75 percent of the outstanding shares is needed to adopt these amendments.

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### Background of Proposal

Supermajority voting provisions are intended to provide protection against self-interested action by large stockholders and to encourage a person seeking control of a company to negotiate with its board to reach terms that are fair and provide the best results for all stockholders. However, as corporate governance standards have evolved, many investors and commentators now view these provisions as limiting a board’s accountability to stockholders and the ability of stockholders to effectively