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CONTACT:

Marcia Wallander
Chief Mission Advancement Officer
Felician Sisters of North America
724-944-9814
MWallander@feliciansisters.org



871 Mercer Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010-6815
FelicianSistersNA.org

Felician Sisters of North America Take Action Prompting Chemours* to Commit To Protect Georgia Wildlife Refuge Sisters Partner with Green Century to File Shareholder Proposal with Chemours* to Protect Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge from Mining

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In response to a shareholder proposal filed by Green Century on behalf of the Felician Sisters of North America, The Chemours Company has said that it has no current or future interest in buying a proposed Twin Pines Minerals, LLC mine that threatens Georgia's Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, or in buying the company itself. Chemours, a chemical company spun off from DuPont, also committed not to do business with Twin Pines or buy titanium from the Okefenokee-adjacent project at any time in the foreseeable future. Chemours announced a further commitment to "ensure the value of the Okefenokee is maintained" and made it clear that it has no plans to mine next to the refuge.

Most of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia was designated for conservation by President Roosevelt in 1937, and Okefenokee Swamp, formed more than 6,000 years ago, is a marvel of biodiversity. Home to more than 600 plant species and 400 animal species, the refuge is now threatened by a potential mining project.

"It's an ecosystem that could be harmed permanently," said Sr. Mary Jean Sliwinski, provincial sustainability coordinator for the Felician Sisters of North America. "When you think of the swamp, the trees, and the creatures, of all that exists within that ecosystem, they are voiceless," said Sr. Jean. "So, while we often stand for people who are voiceless, sometimes our Earth is voiceless as well."

Green Century filed the proposal in November, asking Chemours to address the serious risks that mining next to the Okefenokee would pose to the swamp's unique biodiversity, as well as the 95 million metric tons of carbon dioxide stored within its peat.

"The Felician Sisters of North America are heartened by Chemours' decision to refrain from mining or purchasing any product that could be mined from this region. It is our hope that this commitment will encourage others in the industry to refrain from mining so close to this natural treasure," continued Sr. Jean.

Green Century is withdrawing its shareholder proposal in exchange for the public announcement of Chemours' commitments to protect the Okefenokee. The company's action follows in the footsteps of DuPont, its corporate predecessor. DuPont abandoned a mining project next to the Okefenokee in the early 2000s, pledging instead to protect the area.

"These are the sorts of cases where big commitments about sustainability get tested and we learn whether corporate pledges on climate and biodiversity are to be trusted," said Ivan Frishberg, chief sustainability officer for Amalgamated Bank, which supported the engagement with Chemours. "We are very glad that Chemours has gone beyond requesting trust and is offering assurance that the Okefenokee is off limits."

At 438,000 acres, the Okefenokee Swamp is one of the world's largest intact freshwater wetlands. More than 402,000 acres are protected in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, the largest refuge in the eastern United States and home to hundreds of plant and animal species. Scientists have opined that the proposed Twin Pines

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mining project would have lowered the swamp's water level, causing serious damage to the ecology and wildlife habitat. This excavation would also have dried out the swamp's peat beds to greater depths, promoting the spread of catastrophic fire, which would release enormous amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Chemours joins a long list of stakeholders committed to maintaining the Okefenokee's value. More than 100,000 public comments have been filed with the state and federal governments opposing the Twin Pines project, and over 100 religious leaders from around Georgia have declared their opposition, as have a bipartisan group of state and federal officials, including Bruce Babbitt, Interior Secretary under President Bill Clinton, and Hank Paulson, Treasury Secretary under President George W. Bush. This widespread public opposition has received coverage in the Washington Post and many Georgia outlets.

Sister Janet Marie Adamczyk, vicar and provincial council member shared, "The Felician Sisters serve as prophetic witness to a world in need of healing – the poor and marginalized of our society as well as the very earth which sustains us. We must continue our commitment to be responsible stewards of creation."

"The Felician Sisters of North America are proud to promote sustainability and the care of our planet," said Sister Judith Marie Kubicki, provincial minister of the Felician Sisters of North America. "The message of Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* guides our vision and our efforts to care for our common home."

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The Felician Sisters of North America are a congregation of women religious, inspired by the spiritual ideals of their Foundress Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska and Saint Francis of Assisi. They were founded in Poland in 1855 and were called to America in 1874 to minister to the immigrant and indigenous families of Polonia, WI. The sisters continue to follow their foundress Blessed Mary Angela's directive to "serve where needed" constantly evolving to meet the needs of the time. They continue to shape the social service landscape through their work and support of more than 40 ministries and in their ministry of presence throughout Canada, America and Haiti in schools, parishes, prisons, hospitals, dioceses and social service ministries.

As a Franciscan community, we are dedicated to being responsible stewards of the environment. In addition to advocating for responsible public policy, we have implemented several "green" initiatives at our convents and ministries, including:

- *Daily practices, such as recycling, composting, rainwater preservation, maintenance of green spaces, and organic gardening*
- *The installation of solar panels to provide water heating in convents in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and a former convent in New Mexico*
- *The construction of a LEED-certified convent and high school in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania*
- *The use of geo-thermal heating in Buffalo, New York*
- *The installation of solar panels at six Felician properties across the United States which are expected to avoid 110 million pounds of CO2 emissions over their 35-year operating life.*

As a Catholic organization, the Felician Sisters of North America are aligned with:

- *Pope Francis who addressed the environment in *Laudato Si'*, "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change... It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter... can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face".*
- *The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) who called to exercise faithful, competent and socially responsible stewardship in how it manages its financial resources. "Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all creation... We must seek a society where economic life and environmental commitment work together to protect and to enhance life on this planet." "The ecological problem is intimately connected to justice for the poor...the poor suffer most directly from environmental decline..."*

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About Green Century Capital Management

Green Century Capital Management, Inc. (Green Century) is the investment advisor to the Green Century Funds (The Funds). The Green Century Funds are the first family of fossil fuel free, responsible, and diversified mutual funds in the United States. Green Century Capital Management hosts an award-winning and in-house shareholder advocacy program and is the only mutual fund company in the U.S. wholly owned by environmental and public health nonprofit organizations.

*As of December 31, 2021, The Chemours Company comprised 0.00%, 0.00% and 0.00% of the Green Century Balanced Fund, the Green Century Equity Fund and the Green Century International Index Fund respectively. As of the same date, other securities mentioned were not held in the portfolios of any of the Green Century Funds. References to specific securities, which will change due to ongoing management of the Funds, should not be construed as a recommendation by the Funds, their administrator, or their distributor.

A sustainable investment strategy which incorporates environmental, social and governance criteria may result in lower or higher returns than an investment strategy that does not include such criteria.