KONA GRILL INC Form DFAN14A April 15, 2010

Filed by the Registrant "

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 a Party other than the Registrant x

Check the appropriate box:
 Preliminary Proxy Statement
 Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
 Definitive Proxy Statement

- x Definitive Additional Materials
- " Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Kona Grill, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Mill Road Capital, L.P.

Mill Road Capital GP LLC

Mill Road Capital Management LLC

Thomas E. Lynch

Scott P. Scharfman

Charles M. B. Goldman

Justin C. Jacobs

Craig S. Miller

Lawrence F. Harris

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):				
x	No fee 1	required.		
	Fee com	nputed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.		
	(1) Ti	tle of each class of securities to which transaction applies:		
	(2) Aş	ggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:		
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(4)	Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
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Chec	ck 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 f 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:
(2)	Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
(3)	Filing Party:
(4)	Date Filed:

April 15, 2010

To Our Fellow Shareholders of Kona Grill:

We are writing to you regarding the upcoming 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Kona Grill, Inc. (NasdaqGM: KONA)(the Company) scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. At the Annual Meeting, you have two slates of candidates for the Board of Directors from which to choose one from the Company and one from Mill Road Capital, L.P. (Mill Road).

It is important for you as a shareholder to understand why we have nominated an opposition slate. Mill Road is not an activist fund. Mill Road is currently the Company s dargest shareholder owning 9.8% of the common shares outstanding. We approach investing with a long-term mindset and believe in the long-term potential of the Company. This is the first time we have ever nominated a slate of candidates in opposition to the directors of a company. Our strong preference is to work with the management and board of a company in a constructive and positive manner. Regrettably, the actions of the Board of Directors of Kona Grill have left us little choice. Starting in late 2008, we have documented for the public record a series of actions that we believe demonstrate a track record of consistently poor corporate governance at Kona Grill. Since that time, we have reached out to the leadership of the Company in both public and private forums. Our efforts to reach an amicable compromise have been repeatedly rebuffed. Therefore, after much consideration, we were forced to choose the only remaining alternative: take the decision to the shareholders as to who should be on the Board of Directors of Kona.

The Company s slate of candidates includes Douglas Hipskind, Anthony Winczewski, and Mark Zesbaugh. None of these three candidates have any restaurant operating experience. Outside of the Company, they have never served on the board of another restaurant company (either public or private) and they have never served on the board of another public company. Quite simply, they do not possess the necessary experience to serve as director for you, the shareholders and owners of the Company.

Mill Road has nominated Lawrence Harris, Thomas Lynch, and Craig Miller. Our nominees have substantial experience in restaurant operations, on the boards of restaurant companies, and on the board of public companies. A summary of their experience is as follows:

Larry Harris. Mr. Harris is a seasoned restaurant industry executive with more than 30 years of public and private restaurant experience at all levels. He is currently the CEO, Chairman of the Board, and a Partner of Food Management Partners, Inc. (FMP), a multi-concept restaurant management company operating more than 85 units under the Buffalo Wild Wings, Zio s Italian Kitchens, Smashburger, and Little Caesar s brands. FMP has won awards including Franchisee (2009) and Developer (2001) of the Year for Buffalo Wild Wings. Mr. Harris has also served as the Chief Operations Officer for Pizza Hut operations in Mexico, as well as President of the Harvest Restaurant Group, Inc.

Thomas Lynch. Mr. Lynch is an accomplished investor with a deep financial understanding of the restaurant industry. Mr. Lynch has a successful two decade track record of investing, having founded both Mill Road Capital and Lazard Capital Partners. Previously, he was a member of the private equity group at The Blackstone Group. From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Lynch served on the Board of Directors of Panera Bread Company, one of the most successful public restaurant companies of the last decade. He was recently reappointed to the Board in March 2010.

Craig Miller. Mr. Miller is an award-winning restaurant industry executive with more than 35 years of public and private restaurant experience. He has served as the President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Ruth s Chris Steak House, Inc. where he was named Operator of the Year in 2007 by Nation s Restaurant News. Mr. Miller has also served as the President and CEO of UNO Restaurants, Inc. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Tim Hortons Inc., a publicly traded restaurant chain, and on the Board of Directors of Real Mex Restaurants, Inc., a restaurant chain with publicly traded debt securities.

Considering our slate of candidates along the three crucial aspects of relevant experience (operating restaurants, serving on restaurant boards, and serving on public company boards), we urge you to return the GOLD proxy card and vote for our nominees.

It is important to note that Mr. Harris and Mr. Miller have no previous affiliation with Mill Road. Mill Road has neither voting nor compensation agreements (other than reimbursement of expenses) with Mr. Harris and Mr. Miller.

We have disclosed in several SEC filings that we have indicated our interest in financing and/or acquiring the Company on multiple occasions. As such, you may pause before supporting Mill Road s three nominees to serve on the Company s Board of Directors. To alleviate any concern you may have, we would like to publicly disclose our view on two key issues: 1) transactions involving interested parties or insiders and 2) the appointment of a Director to the Company s currently vacant board seat.

1. Transaction Involving Interested Parties or Insiders. If any party, whether Mill Road, an insider or any other party, should submit a proposal regarding a financing or acquisition of the Company, we would expect the Board to adhere to market practice and form a special committee of disinterested directors to properly evaluate the proposal and retain outside financial and legal advisors. Of course, if Mill Road submitted a proposal, we would expect this committee would not include Thomas Lynch who, as an employee of Mill Road, would remove himself from discussions. All of our nominees are absolutely committed to acting in the best interest of all shareholders, and we would expect that any pursuit of strategic alternatives, whether or not in response to a proposal from Mill Road, would consist of a fair and open process that seeks to maximize value through consideration of proposals submitted by multiple parties. Ultimately, any potential financing or sale of the Company should be voted upon by all of the Company shareholders.

2. Appointment of a Director to the Vacant 7th Board Seat. We believe the Company and its shareholders are best served if the Board of Directors has substantial restaurant operation experience, restaurant board experience, and public company board experience. Therefore, we believe that the 7th Board seat, which is currently open, should be filled by a person with substantial experience in these three key areas. Additionally, this candidate should have no affiliation with either Mill Road or other members of the Board of Directors. We strongly believe in good corporate governance and that shareholders would be best served by the addition of an independent voice with significant relevant experience.

To help you in your decision as to which slate of candidates to support, please read our definitive proxy statement and the excerpts of a presentation Mill Road made to RiskMetrics Group on April 8, 2010 regarding the election of directors for the Company. The definitive proxy statement, which contains information relating to the participants in the proxy solicitation in support of Mill Road s nominees, and the excerpts of the presentation to RiskMetrics are both available at no charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission s website at www.sec.gov and on our proxy solicitor s website at www.sec.gov and on our proxy solicitor, InvestorCom, Inc., by telephone toll-free at 1-877-972-0090. We hope you will find this information helpful as you consider which slate to support.

It is important to reiterate that Mill Road remains open to considering all alternatives that can protect and maximize shareholder value. We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter and appreciate your vote.

Kind regards,

/s/ JUSTIN C. JACOBS
Justin C. Jacobs
Managing Director
Mill Road Capital, L.P.

Excerpts of Presentation to RiskMetrics Group by Mill Road Capital, L.P. 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Kona Grill, Inc. April 8, 2010

Notice to Shareholders

1

All stockholders of Kona Grill, Inc. are advised to read Mill Road's definitive proxy statement because it contains important information, including information relating to the participants in the solicitation of proxies in support of Mill Road's nominees for use at the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders of Kona Grill, Inc. The definitive proxy statement and GOLD proxy card will be mailed to the stockholders of Kona Grill, Inc. and are also available at no charge on the Securities and Exchange Commission s website at www.sec.gov

or by contacting our proxy solicitor, InvestorCom, Inc., by telephone toll-free at 1-877-972-0090.

2 Summary Comparison of Slates

There are 3 required areas of experience for Nominees:

Restaurant Operating

Restaurant Board

Public Company Board

Company s Nominees lack all 3

Mill

Road s

have
an
abundance
of
experience
in
all
3
Poor governance at Board with consistent pattern of self-dealing
The stock price and operational performance are significantly behind comparable companies
The current Board does not have the necessary experience to allow the management team to succeed

Mill Road is asking all shareholders to return a GOLD proxy card and vote

for our Nominees

Nominees

3 Mill Road Capital Mill Road Capital: \$250 million private investment fund based in Greenwich, CT Background:

Core group of former Blackstone professionals

Successful track record of public and private investing

Long-term focus with 12 year commitment from our investors Investment Strategy:

Exclusive focus on small, public companies

Portfolio: equity & debt investments in minority & control positions

Representative investments

Physician s Formula: ~20% shareholder & subordinated debt holder

Cossette: white-knight with management in going-private transaction Mill Road is not an activist fund:

This is the first slate of candidates we have ever nominated

We have chosen this path only after all other options were exhausted

Situation Summary

Annual Meeting of Shareholders: April 28, 2010

Kona Grill s Board of Directors

Staggered board with 3 classes

Board seats: 7

Board seats filled: 6

Class up for election has 3 seats Slate of Nominees

Company nominated 3 incumbent directors for re-election

Mill Road nominated 3 opposition candidates

Former CEO, Marcus Jundt, nominated himself and then withdrew Mill Road is asking shareholders to vote for all 3 of our Nominees

Kona Grill Board of Directors Kona s non-employee directors have no other

Restaurant Operating Experience

Restaurant Board Experience

Public Board Experience Relevant Experience (Non-Kona) Restaurant Public Name

Background Operating

Board

Board

Douglas Hipskind

Kona Grill Board

Common Denominator

This Board is a holdover from when Kona was private

Kona is headquartered in Scottsdale, AZ and the first two units were in Arizona

4 of 5 outside directors are from Minnesota

The former CEO, Marcus Jundt, is also from Minnesota

Kona

Common

Director

Shares

Name

Age

Since

Address in Proxy

Owned

50 South 6th Street **Suite 1480** Minneapolis, MN 55402 Anthony Winczewski 54 2005 200 South 6th Street 0 **Suite 1300** Minneapolis, MN 55402 Mark Zesbaugh 45 2007 3515 Thorwood Court Eagan, MN 55123 Berke Bakay 31 2009 4875 Preston Park Blvd 1,139,000 Suite 775W Plano, TX 75093 Richard Hauser 48 2004 50 South 6th Street 675,302 **Suite 1480** Minneapolis, MN 55402 Marc Buehler 40 2009 7150 East Camelback Road 27,243 Suite 220 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Source: Kona Grill s Proxy filed 3/9/10

Douglas Hipskind

41 2003

7
Mill Road Nominees
Mill Road s nominees have extensive experience in each of the following critical areas:

Restaurant Operations

Restaurant Board of Directors

Public Company Board of Directors The Nominees

Larry Harris

Thomas Lynch

Craig Miller Relationship of the Nominees

All 3 Nominees would be considered independent

Larry Harris and Craig Miller

No other affiliation with Mill Road

No compensation or voting agreement with Mill Road

Nominee: Larry Harris

Headline: 30+ Year Track Record of Operational Success in Restaurants

Selected Restaurant Experience:

CEO,

Chairman

of

Board

and

а

Partner

of

Food

Management

Partners

(10+ years)

Buffalo Wild Wings

franchisee (27 units open, 5 in development, 22 committed)

Zio s Italian Kitchens

owner (17 units open, 2 in development)

Smashburger

franchisee (4 units open, 2 in development, 39 committed)

Little Caesar s

franchisee (37 units open, 2 in development, 17 committed)

President & COO of Harvest Restaurant Group (~3 years)

COO of Pizza Hut operations in Mexico (~10 years)

Awards/Achievements:

Buffalo Wild Wings

Franchisee of the Year (2009)

Developer of the Year (2001)

Zio s Italian Kitchen

Purchased EBITDA negative company (2007) and turned around to generate significant EBITDA by 2009

Little Caesar s

Operational Excellence Award (2006)

Nominee: Thomas Lynch

Headline: Long-Term Investor with

Significant Board

Experience

at Top

Restaurant Performer

Select Experience:

Founder & Senior Managing Director of Mill Road Capital (6+ years)

Founder & Senior Managing Director of Lazard Capital Partners (~3 years)

Managing Director of The Blackstone Group (~7 years)

Consultant at The Monitor Group (~3 years)

Public Company Board Experience:

Panera Bread

Member of Board of Directors: 2003-2006 (Audit and Nominating Committees)

Recently asked to re-join the Board as of March 2010

People s Choice TV Awards/Achievements:

Mill Road Capital

Fund has consistently and significantly outperformed benchmark indices

Lazard Capital Partners

One of top 1997 vintage private equity funds

One of top debut funds of last 15 years

Nominee: Craig Miller

Headline: 35+Year Career as Top Tier Restaurant Operator with Public, Restaurant

Board Experience

Selected Restaurant Experience:

President, CEO & Chairman of Ruth s Chris Steak House (4+ years)

President, CEO of UNO Restaurants (Pizzeria Uno) (~20 years)

VP of Darden Restaurants (~10 years)

Red Lobster

Casa Gallardo

Additional Board of Directors

Tim Horton s (Audit Committee)

Real Mex Restaurants

Awards/Achievements:

2007

Operator

of

the

Year

for

Ruth s

Chris

Awarded

by

Nation s

Restaurant

News

Two-time Golden Chain Award

In 2000 as President, CEO of UNO Restaurants

In 2007 as President, CEO & Chairman of Ruth s Chris Steak House

UNO Restaurants grew from 15 units to ~200 units over his tenure

National Restaurant Association: Chairman of the Board (2005-2006)

11 Comparison of Slates A summary comparison of relevant experience in the key areas illustrates the superior slate put forward by Mill Road Relevant Experience (Non-Kona)

Public
Name
Operating
Board
Board
Douglas Hipskind
None
None
None
Anthony Winczewski
Mark Zesbaugh
Lawrence Harris
Buffalo Wild Wings
Food Mgt. Partners
Panera Bread
Thomas Lynch
Zio's Italian Kitchen
Panera Bread
Galaxy Nutritional Foods
Craig Miller
Smashburger
Ruth's Chris Steak House
People's Choice TV
Little Caesar's
Tim Horton's
Ruth's Chris Steak House
Boston Chicken
Real Mex
Tim Horton's
Pizza Hut
Ruth's Chris Steak House
Pizzeria Uno
Casa Gallardo

Red Lobster

Restaurant

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Governance Deficit
Kona Grill has a set of policies that are inconsistent with good corporate
governance
Policy Examples

Staggered board

Plurality voting for directors

Shareholders do not have cumulative voting rights in elections

Shareholders can not call a special meeting

Shareholders may not act by written consent

Shareholders need super-majority to change charter and by-laws

Board may amend by-laws without shareholder approval Output of Policies

The Board adopts a Poison Pill which is voted down by shareholders in 2009

Former Chairman/CEO is re-elected in 2009 even though 53% of shares voted against/withheld in an uncontested election

A director and chair of Audit Committee resigned in July 2006 citing board governance process related to appointment of CEO

Board lacks majority of independent directors for 6 months and only gains compliance through resignation of Chairman/CEO

13 Governance Deficit: Culture of Self-Dealing The Board of Kona Grill has a consistent track record of selfdealing Key examples

In December 2008, the Board approved a financing in a non-competitive process for the sale of stock representing ~15% of the Company to the Chairman/CEO s father at an ~20% discount to the market price

Upon announcement, Mill Road publicly offered to purchase the stock but at a price 22% higher

Company does not respond to our offer but in February 2009, the Agreement with the Chairman/CEO s father is mutually terminated

In March 2009, the Company completed a financing with Board members and their families on terms materially less favorable to the Company than those described in a term sheet provided to potential outside investors (including Mill Road) just 3 days prior

Kona Grill Operational Performance Compared to similar price points competitors, Kona has significantly under-

performed along 2 key metrics:

Same-Store Sales Growth (SSS)

Unit Profitability (Rest. Operating Margin)

(1)

Figures calculated utilizing average check and alcohol percentage per each company s latest 10-K for the specific concepts lis (2)

One year period represents CY2009 same-store sales change. Three year period represents the cumulative calendarized full year same-store sales change for the

CY2007, CY2008, and CY2009 periods. If a company does not have a calendar year end, then calendarized full year same-sto the average of the calendar quarters or months, as available, for each period

(3)

period from Q4 CY2006

to Q4 CY2009

\$21.12 \$4.76 \$25.88 -6.7%

Change in restaurant margin (restaurant EBITDA) during the one year period from Q4 CY2008 to Q4 CY2009 and during the

1 Year Change 3 Year Change Average Check (1) Rest. Op. Rest. Op. Restaurant Concept Ticker Food Alcohol Total SSS (2) Margin (3) SSS (2) Margin (3) RA Sushi **BNHN** \$13.89 \$7.16 \$21.05 1.7% 1.3% -4.9% -4.7% The Cheesecake Factory CAKE \$16.53 \$2.47 \$19.00 -2.6% 3.4% -6.5% -1.8% Red Lobster DRI \$17.83 \$1.42 \$19.25 -3.8% N/A -4.7% N/A Maggiano's **EAT**

N/A -9.8% N/A J. Alexander's JAX \$20.38 \$4.26 \$24.64 -4.7% -0.2% -8.7% -8.8% PF Chang's China Bistro **PFCB** \$17.53 \$2.97 \$20.50 -6.7% 0.5% -11.1% -1.3% Average of MRC Comparables \$21.72 -3.8% 1.2% -7.6% -4.1% Kona Grill **KONA**

\$16.35 \$7.55 \$23.90 -9.3% -6.0% -13.6% -8.1%

Kona Grill vs. RA Sushi

Kona has materially under-performed its closest comparable, RA Sushi, even

though it is less geographically exposed to the financial crisis

(1)

Figures per Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Local unemployment rate is defined as the average of the unemployment rates i by the number of units in the county. Figure as of November 2009 (latest available)

(2)

Figure are not seasonally adjusted as BLS does not report seasonally adjusted county data. Seasonally adjusted, November 20 (3)

See previous page for additional details

Kona Grill

RA Sushi

Difference

Average Check:

Food Check

```
$16.35
$13.89
$2.46
Alcohol
7.55
7.16
0.39
Total Average Check
$23.90
$21.05
$2.85
Units Per State:
Arizona
4
6
(2)
California
0
6
(6)
Florida
3
(1)
Michigan
1
0
1
Nevada
1
1
0
Hardest Hit States Sub-Total
8
16
(8)
Texas
5
3
2
Illinois
2
3
(1)
Other
9
3
6
```

Total Units

24

```
25
(1)
Local Unemployment Rate (1):
Local Unemployment Rate
8.5%
9.7%
-1.2%
National Average (2)
9.4%
9.4%
Operating Statistics (3):
3 Year Cummulative
SSS
-13.6%
-4.9%
-8.6%
3 Year Operating Margin
-8.1%
-4.7%
```

-3.4%

Kona Grill New Unit Performance

The decline in new unit revenue has resulted in Return on Invested

Capital (ROI) significantly below targeted levels

Notes:

Targeted

figures per January 2010 Investor Presentation, Slide 34, except for pre-opening costs, which are added in per 2009 10-K, Page basis as in the January 2010 Investor Presentation (excluding cash pre-opening costs) would increase to 35%

New Units

figures utilize actual annualized average weekly sales figures and an estimated 5% operating margin. The operating margin is comment

during

the

Q3

2009

conference

call (October 27, 2009) that new units had an operating margin in the lower single digits. Accordingly, Mill Road believes the 5% assumption is likely generous. Build costs matched to Targeted figures. New unit # does not include units opened during the period **Construction Costs** are net of tenant improvement allowances as noted in the company presentation New Units All figures \$mm, unless otherwise noted Targeted Q3 2009 Q4 2009 New Units (#) 5 6 New Units as % of Total 23% 26% Annual Revenue \$4.5 \$2.9 \$3.0 Restaurant Operating Margin 19% 5% 5% **Unit Operating Profit** \$0.9 \$0.1 \$0.1 **Construction Costs**

\$2.5

\$2.5

\$2.5

Pre-Opening Costs

0.4

0.4

0.4

Total Build Costs

\$2.9

\$2.9

\$2.9

Cash-on-Cash ROI

30%

5%

5%

Kona Grill Stock Price Performance

Kona s stock price performance significantly lags its peer group over

all relevant

time periods except the last year

However, the last year has an extraordinary event

(1)

Includes BJRI, BNHN, CAKE, GCFB, JAX, MSSR, and PFCB. As defined in Kona s 10-K.

(2)

Includes BNHN, CAKE, JAX, and PFCB.

Note: Time Period is through 3/31/10

Stock Price Performance

Over/(Under)

Peer Group, defined by

Performance vs.

Time Period

KONA 10-K (1) MRC (2) 10-K(1)MRC (2) Since IPO (Since 8/16/05) -70% -38% -33% -32% -37% Last 3 Years -75% -38% -30% -37% -45% Last 2 Years -56% -6% -2% -50% -54% Last Year 134%

100% 112% 35% 22%

Kona

Grill

Stock

Price

Performance

Last

Year

Adjusted

Although the Company outperformed its peers over

the last year by 22%-35%,

there is an extraordinary event

in this period

On May 18

th , 2009, Mill Road made a public filing expressing interest to acquire the Company at a 101% premium If the increase from this onetime event is removed from performance from the rest of the year, Kona lags its peer group by 83% Peer Group Index includes BJRI, BNHN, CAKE, GCFB, JAX, MSSR, and PFCB as defined in Kona s 10-K. Time Period is through 3/31/10. Kona vs. Peer Group Last Year 0% 50% 100% 150% 200% 250% 300% 3/31/09 5/1/09 6/3/09 7/6/09 8/7/09 9/9/09 10/12/0911/11/0912/14/09 1/15/10 2/18/10 3/22/10 **KONA** Peer Group Index

Mill Road Expression of Interest Adjusted Performance

19 Why Has Relative Performance Been So Poor? Lack of Restaurant Operating Experience

CEO s

Marcus Jundt: no restaurant operating background

Mark Bartholomay: experience primarily in business development and franchising

Board of Directors Management Turnover

In the last 8 years, Kona has had 6 different CEO $\,$ s compared to the peer group average of 1.9

Operating Decisions

Drastic Menu Changes 80% of menu

Poor Real Estate Selections

Decreased Food Quality Cost of Sales down 140bps

Lack of Investment in People no Head of HR

Elimination of Key Promotion: Half Price Happy Hour

20 Mill Road Capital Leadership Plan for Kona Grill Operating Performance

New CEO in place can be successful with proper support structure

Focus on operations to improve customer experience

Elevate quality of raw protein inputs

Improve consistency of in-store execution

Increase training Leadership

Appoint 7
th
Director
must have significant restaurant operating experience
and should be independent

Assess strengths and weaknesses of current operating team

Ensure menu is consistent with vision of concept

Adopt corporate governance best practices and emphasize ethical leadership Capital Structure

Company does not have capital to grow

Unit economics do not currently justify growth

Re-establish unit economics before even considering new growth

Summary

Comparison of Slates

There are 3 required areas of experience for Nominees:

Restaurant Operating

Restaurant Board

Public Company Board

Company s Nominees lack all 3

Mill Road s Nominees have an abundance of experience in all 3 Poor governance at Board with consistent pattern of self-dealing

The stock price and operational performance are significantly behind comparable companies

The current Board does not have the necessary experience to allow the management team to succeed

Mill Road is asking all shareholders to return a GOLD proxy card and vote

for our Nominees