



# Akamai Technologies

Locations: Massachusetts (HQ)

Industries: Cloud & Data Storage, Data Security

## RISK LEVEL:



Medium Risk

### DESCRIPTION:

Akamai Technologies often yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Akamai occasionally embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues at times. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

### Corporate Weaponization

**Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries. Medium Risk**

*Akamai Technologies received a score of 80 on the 2025 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). However, Akamai Technologies has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (3).*

**Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs. High Risk**

*Akamai Technologies' HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). Akamai Technologies does not discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (3).*

**Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature. High Risk**

*Akamai's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). Akamai does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (3).*

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

*Akamai signed an open letter endorsing the Equality Act, a contentious proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act by adding sexual orientation and so-called gender identity as protected categories. The legislation would, among other implications, grant biological men access to women-only spaces such as sports teams and public restrooms, and compel healthcare providers to deliver sex-denying healthcare (1). The company used its Twitter page in 2020 to publicly support gender identity and sexual orientation as protected characteristics under Title VII (2). Akamai also assisted the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council in assembling a list of Juneteenth resources, which included books by critical race theorists Ibram X. Kendi, Robin DiAngelo, and Ta-Nehisi Coates (3). The company is a Ceres Network Member, committed to carbon neutrality by 2040 (4)(5)(6). Akamai CEO, Tom Leighton, denounced various states' legislative efforts to protect election integrity and security (7).*

**Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

*Akamai's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). Akamai underwrites the MTLC's Diversity Initiatives. This includes the "2030 Challenge", aiming to double the percentage of black and indigenous employees in tech jobs in Massachusetts by 2030 (3). In 2013, then-Executive Vice Chairman of Akamai Technologies, Paul Sagan, personally spearheaded an ACLU initiative, donating millions in personal funds (4). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of Akamai using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (5).*

**Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business purposes.**

**Lower Risk**

*Akamai does not operate a PAC at this time but has not lobbied for ideological purposes (1)(2)(3).*

*The contents of this website and related resources (collectively, the "materials") are general in nature and intended for educational use only. Nothing in the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content constitutes legal or professional advice for any specific matter. Anyone seeking legal or professional advice should obtain such advice from competent counsel. Since individual circumstances vary, anyone reviewing the materials and/or any other 1792 Exchange content is strongly urged to obtain specific legal and/or other professional advice before acting or refraining from acting based on such materials or other 1792 Exchange content. 1792 Exchange accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage, howsoever incurred, which may result from accessing or relying on the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content. Further, 1792 Exchange disclaims, to the fullest extent permitted by law, all liability for any acts or omissions based on the materials or any other 1792 Exchange content.*

*USER AGREEMENT: Company reports and other resources are intended only for the private educational use of the registered user. Republishing and distributing reports and resources is strictly prohibited. By downloading reports and resources, the user accepts these conditions.*

© 1792 Exchange 2023