



Windstream

Locations: Arkansas (HQ)
Industries: Telecommunication Services

RISK LEVEL:



Medium Risk

DESCRIPTION:

Windstream is Medium Risk. The company 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. Windstream 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

Windstream received a score of 40 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, Windstream 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. Lower Risk

Windstream does not appear to discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or beliefs (1).

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

The company operates a Black Business Support Fund, and only businesses that are black-owned are qualified to receive corporate funds under this program (1). Windstream does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (2).

Corporate Governance and Public Policy

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

Windstream supports DEI within its business practices, hosting a DEI Council. The company "promot[es] 'Why I'm an Ally' and 'Why I Feel Included' video series" (1). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of Windstream using its reputation to advance ideological causes or policies (2).

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

Windstream'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). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of Windstream using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (3).

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

Windstream has not used its PAC donations or lobbying for ideological purposes (1)(2)(3).

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