Dear [Name of university senior financial manager]

We hope this finds you well. [If you’re an individual: I am writing to you as a student/staff member/alum][If you’re a group: We are writing to you as representatives of the students union, or name of society/groups, for example “as one of the largest sustainability societies/groups at X university], about the Cambridge University-led coalition of 21 UK universities that have sent a formal request for proposals to financial institutions on 15 February. You may have seen this initiative covered in the [Financial Times](https://www.ft.com/content/6c1dd972-8eaa-4f5c-9df6-894492880565). This request is seeking proposals for financial service providers which meet two key criteria: that they can comfortably meet all of a university’s financial service needs and that the institution does not provide financing for fossil fuel expansion. We encourage you to consider joining this impactful and exciting coalition and to consider supporting their request for proposals, which you can view in full on the [Cambridge University webpage](https://www.governance.cam.ac.uk/committees/bef/Pages/request-proposals.aspx) setting out the initiative.

As you may already be aware, there is currently no bank that both provides financial services suitable for universities and does not finance fossil fuel expansion - this include the principal banking providers for most UK universities: Barclays, HSBC, Natwest, Lloyds, and Santander, all of which finance fossil fuel expansion. There is a firm international scientific [consensus](https://www.carbonbrief.org/new-fossil-fuels-incompatible-with-1-5c-goal-comprehensive-analysis-finds/#:~:text=There%20is%20a%20%E2%80%9Clarge%20consensus,target%2C%20a%20new%20report%20says.) that there can be no newfossil fuel projects if the world is to meet the Paris Agreement’s critical climate transition targets, namely limiting global temperatures to 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels. The request for proposals produced by the coalition aims to influence the financial sector towards alignment with these targets.

The request for proposals does not mandate any action nor commit the University to switch banks - the purpose of it is to signal to the market that universities are interested in a banking provider that aligns with their core sustainability values and academic research on climate. If an appropriate provider surfaces, each university in the coalition can then assess the feasibility of a switch, without having committed to switching.

As pressure grows from students, staff, and campaigners on universities to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry and their financiers, joining this coalition and supporting the request for proposals is a simple way for our university to demonstrate commitment to addressing these challenges in a cautious and responsible way.

**We ask that [Uni Name]’s [name of council/position/team] consider joining the Cambridge-led coalition of 21 universities that have sent the request for proposals to financial institutions, and to publicly share in writing the outcome of and reasons for your [/the committees] decision.**

To join the coalition and support the request for proposals, or find out more, please contact the Cambridge Banking Engagement Forum which is managing the initiative, at [BEF@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:BEF@admin.cam.ac.uk).

We look forward to your thoughts on this exciting and hugely impactful sector initiative that [Uni Name] has the opportunity to throw its weight behind.

All the best,

[Your names/society/etc.]