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Another Dearborn Partners Core Rising and High & Rising Dividend SMA Portfolio Increase: WEC Energy Group

On December 20, 2023, WEC Energy Group announced a 7.1% increase in its quarterly dividend per share to \$0.835 (\$3.34 annually) from \$0.78 (\$3.12 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on March 1, 2024 to holders of record as of February 14, 2024. This is the 21st consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by WEC Energy Group.

From the press release: "The board's review today is consistent with our ongoing plan targeting a dividend payout ratio of 65 to 70 percent of earnings," said Gale Klappa, executive chairman.

WEC Energy Group (NYSE: WEC), based in Milwaukee, is one of the nation's premier energy companies, serving nearly 4.7 million customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. The company's principal utilities are We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Michigan Gas Utilities, Minnesota Energy Resources and Upper Michigan Energy Resources. Another major subsidiary, We Power, designs, builds and owns electric generating plants. In addition, WEC Infrastructure LLC owns a growing fleet of renewable generation facilities in states ranging from South Dakota to Texas. WEC Energy Group (wecenergygroup.com) is a Fortune 500 company and a component of the S&P 500. The company has approximately 36,000 stockholders of record, 7,000 employees and more than \$43 billion of assets.

WEC Energy Group is in the Utilities sector of both of our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolios. So far this year, 47 of 49 companies in our Core Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 50 dividend increases averaging about 8.6% more than these companies paid a year earlier. In our High & Rising Dividend Portfolio, 24 of 25 companies have announced 28 dividend increases averaging about 6.9% more than these companies paid a year earlier. No companies in these portfolios have reduced or suspended dividends so far this year.

We sincerely thank you for your partnership and your continued interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy. We wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year. We on the Dearborn investment team promise to continue to work hard to try to bring you lots of rising dividends in the years to come. Please stay well.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

This dividend increase announcement is not a complete description of, nor a recommendation to invest in, any investment strategy (the "Strategy") mentioned herein. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy, is not a recommendation regarding any securities transaction, nor is it an offer to provide advisory or other services by Dearborn Partners, L.L.C. The information contained in this writing should not be construed as financial or investment advice on any subject matter. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. There is no assurance the Strategy will be profitable, achieve its objectives, be suitable for you, or not incur losses. Some of the information herein has been obtained from third party sources. We believe such information is reliable but we have not in each case verified its accuracy or completeness. Any opinions herein are as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the

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company's board of directors. There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. Dividend yield is one component of performance and should not be the only consideration for investment. Dearborn Partners L.L.C. is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For a complete list of all Dearborn Rising Dividend holdings that in the past year - increased their dividends, had no dividend increases, or had a dividend decrease, please contact the Dearborn Rising Dividend Team at RD@dearbornpartners.com. It should not be assumed that portfolio trades made in the future will be profitable, or will increase their dividends, or will equal the performance of the securities in this announcement.