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ESG Bans Cost Texas.

SYLVIE DOUGLIS, BYLINE: NPR.

DARIAN WOODS, HOST:

This is THE INDICATOR FROM PLANET MONEY. I'm Darian Woods.

WAILIN WONG, HOST:

And I'm Wailin Wong. And I hope everyone packed their galoshes today because we have to wade into the culture wars.

WOODS: Oh yeah, it is thick and deep, this morass. But don't worry, there is an economic lesson here.

WONG: And we're going to find it. Now, there's been a lot of public rhetoric from government officials who have attacked companies over their ESG policies. ESG stands for environmental, social and governance, and it's a broad term to describe business decisions around things like climate change and workplace diversity.

WOODS: And some states have gone a step beyond anti-ESG rhetoric. Last year, Texas banned local governments from working with certain banks. These were banks that the state leaders said were discriminating against things like oil and gas and guns. Here's how one state legislator, Republican Phil King, put it.

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September 8, 2022

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