



OFFICE OF  
STATE TREASURER  
DENISE L. NAPIER

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# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NAPIER TO ADDRESS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM; CONNECTICUT  
TREASURER INVITED TO PRESENT VIEWS AS LEADING INSTITUTIONAL  
INVESTOR ON CORPORATE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL RISK**

Connecticut Treasurer Denise L. Nappier, one of the nation's leading public sector advocates for responsible corporate behavior and accountability to shareholders, has been invited to address the prestigious World Economic Forum, meeting this week in Davos, Switzerland. Joining Nappier at the Forum will be key business, financial and government leaders from 94 nations.

Nappier, principal fiduciary of the \$19 billion Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds, will speak on behalf of institutional investors on panels addressing the need for greater disclosure of risk related to long-term investments and the growing recognition of climate change as an issue that presents potential investment risk for investors.



The invitation comes following Nappier's initiative for a first-ever Institutional Investor Summit on Climate Risk, which she co-chaired at the United Nations last November. The Summit, attended by 200 business and financial leaders and co-sponsored by the United Nations Foundation, highlighted the need for greater regulatory and corporate action to provide investors with sufficient information to make informed decisions about risks to the financial health of corporations posed by climate change.

The World Economic Forum, attended each year by nearly 3,000 high level corporate, financial and government leaders and from around the world, provides a collaborative framework for the world's leaders to address global issues, engaging particularly its corporate members in global citizenship. Among this year's central themes are: Promoting Global Growth, Managing New Risks, Building Corporate Resilience and Reducing Inequity.

Nappier is currently Treasurer of the National Association of State Treasurers and co-chair of the organization's Committee on Corporate Governance. She is a board member of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors, the first public fund investor to serve in that capacity.

"One of the key ingredients that led to the corporate and financial scandals of the recent past – and those that continue to unfold – was and is the failure to employ adequate

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checks and balances within our capital system... the failure to fully assess risk and insist upon full disclosure so that investors could make informed judgments,” Nappier said. “This Forum provides a meaningful opportunity to underscore the importance to shareholders – especially long-term investors such as pension funds -- of full and forthright disclosure of risk, and I am honored to be able to make that case directly to individuals whose response can impact beneficiaries of the Connecticut pension fund and retirees and shareholders around the world.”

Nappier is the sole State Treasurer invited to attend the Forum. Also scheduled to attend are many Fortune 500 corporate CEO's, including Pfizer CEO Henry McKinnell, and government officials including members of the Bush Cabinet, Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman William Donaldson and former President Bill Clinton.

A leading advocate for responsible corporate behavior, Treasurer Nappier has filed Connecticut's first-ever shareholder resolutions and negotiated with dozens of companies for landmark agreements such as tying executive compensation to performance standards including diversity goals, reporting on environment according to the Global Reporting Initiative, and the separation of auditing from non-auditing functions by outside firms. Connecticut's proxy voting guidelines, developed by the Nappier administration, recognize the economic impact that long-term sustainability issues, including environment and global labor and human rights standards, can have on the value of portfolio companies.

Regarding the financial risks posed by climate change and accompanying regulations, Nappier said “The consequences for those companies that do not act responsibly today and take steps to assess and mitigate the risk associated with climate change can be quite devastating. For example, companies could face the prospect of losing their competitive edge, incurring litigation costs, or being saddled with unforeseen capital expenses, just to name a few. All of these factors – and others – can erode shareholder value and place today's seemingly solid investment in jeopardy.”

The World Economic Forum ([www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)) is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world. Incorporated as a foundation, and based in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interests. The Forum has NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

“As institutional and individual investors, we need accurate and complete disclosure of information that could affect the current and future health of the companies we invest in... and that goes beyond accounting to include, among other things, climate change as a risk factor,” Nappier said.

Treasurer Nappier is the first African-American woman elected to serve as a State Treasurer in the United States and the first African-American woman elected to a statewide office in Connecticut. The 82nd Connecticut State Treasurer, she is the first woman to be elected to that office and was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002.