



**THE OFFICE OF
STATE TREASURER
DENISE L. NAPIER**

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 2010

Statement of Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier Concerning SEC Approval of a Rule on Access to the Proxy

The Securities and Exchange Commission has taken another significant step to ensure that board members and management act in the best interests of their shareholders, and is one of many important corporate governance reforms my office has pushed for since the beginning of my administration.

Electing the board of directors is the most important stock ownership right that shareholders can exercise, and one that has become even more critical in the current economic climate. Strong and dedicated leadership at the board level, including the ability to discern undue risk that could jeopardize long-term value, is the cornerstone of a first-rate board and a well-governed corporation.

While successful board members can enhance a company's bottom line through prudent exercise of their fiduciary and oversight responsibilities, incompetent and unqualified directors can rapidly destroy value. The ongoing financial crisis has called attention to the acute failures in leadership at the board level at a number of corporations – failures that have shaken investor confidence, attracted negative publicity, and caused a ripple effect throughout our economy.

It has never been more important for shareholders – many of whom are in it for the long haul – to choose their representatives. Prior to the new rule, shareholders only had a choice of voting for board members nominated by current board members -- and often selected by management -- or mounting an expensive challenge to the board and distributing their own proxy card. The SEC's action helps level the playing field in favor of shareholders' fundamental right to elect the board members that serve the companies they own.