



The Office Of State Treasurer  
Denise L. Nappier

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## News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2016

### **TREASURER NAPIER CALLS ON VISTA OUTDOOR TO TAKE COMMON SENSE STEPS TO MINIMIZE MISUSE OF FIREARMS**

**HARTFORD, CT** – At today’s annual shareholder meeting of Vista Outdoor, Connecticut Treasurer Denise L. Nappier urged support of a resolution calling on the company to identify the efforts it takes to avoid the misuse of firearms.

“The proliferation of gun violence is one of the most pressing public health issues of our time. As a shareholder of Vista, we are keenly interested in the long-term profitability of the company and believe that disclosure of common sense steps to protect against misuse of guns is a responsible course of action toward protecting Vista’s reputation and bottom-line,” said Treasurer Nappier, principal fiduciary of the Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds (“CRPTF”).

Nappier urged the company to report annually to shareholders on the actions it has taken to implement elements of the Sandy Hook Principles, a set of measures aimed at curbing gun violence, keeping guns out of the hands of children and those with mental health problems, and supporting universal, federal background checks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 33,600 deaths each year involve a firearm. In 2016 alone, the Gun Violence Archive reports that there have been 32,436 incidents, 8,299 deaths and 221 mass shootings. At schools, the Everytown for Gun Safety organization reports that there have been at least 160 shootings since the Newtown tragedy in 2012, with 59 resulting in at least one homicide.

“We commend Vista for its support of gun safety and education programs. More action is necessary, though, and adoption of the Sandy Hook Principles would improve Vista’s reputation with responsible gun owners, protect the company against downside reputational risk, and better prepare Vista for regulatory action should it come to pass,” said Treasurer Nappier.

At the annual meeting, the company reported that approximately 7 percent of shareholders voted in favor of the resolution, which urged Vista’s Board of Directors to report annually to shareholders on actions the company has taken on the following six of eight elements of the Sandy Hook Principles:

**CONTACT:** DAVID BARRETT, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, (860) 702-3164

[DAVID.S.BARRETT@CT.GOV](mailto:DAVID.S.BARRETT@CT.GOV)

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- Promoting restrictions on firearms and ammunition sales, transfers and possession to keep guns out of the hands of children, persons with mental illness or mental health challenges, criminals, domestic or international terrorists and anyone else prohibited from possessing them under federal law;
- Supporting the establishment of a federal universal background check system for every sale or transfer of guns or ammunition conducted by the company;
- Reevaluating policies regarding the sale, production, design or conversion of military style assault weapons for use by civilians, including the distribution of any materials/information that may be used to assist in such conversions;
- Taking steps to promote the conducting of background checks for every sale or transfer of guns or ammunition by business clients, including gun show operators or gun dealers;
- Supporting a federal gun trafficking statute to ensure stronger punishment for individuals engaging in the trade of selling firearms to anyone prohibited from possessing them under federal law; and
- Promoting gun safety education at the point of sale and in the communities in which the company conducts business operations.

As of August 1, CRPTF held 10,600 shares of Vista Outdoor valued at \$537,632.

Following the Sandy Hook tragedy in December of 2012, Treasurer Nappier engaged with companies in which the State invests that manufacture, distribute and sell guns, gun parts, gun accessories and ammunition. She raised the business case for reasonable regulation of firearms and ammunition sales in order to mitigate the potential long-term business risk posed by the misuse of firearms.

As a result, Sears Holdings Corp. removed images of gun parts for sale from its website. In addition, it affirmed that it is not in the business of selling firearms, ammunition or gun parts -- other than air guns or paint ball and air soft guns – and that third-party sellers on its website are prohibited from selling firearms and weapons. In addition, Amazon, Dick’s Sporting Goods and Wal-Mart indicated that their business practices were compatible with the Sandy Hook Principles.

The CRPTF introduced a similar resolution at the 2014 annual meeting of Alliant Techsystems Inc., the predecessor company to Vista Outdoor.

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