August 17, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth M. Murphy
Secretary
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street NE
Washington, DC 20549-1090

Re: File No. S7-10-09
Release No. 34-60089
Facilitating Shareholder Director Nominations

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I would like to address the Securities and Exchange Commission's recently proposed rules which require companies to permit proxy access for shareholder nominations of corporate directors. I am concerned that the adoption of these rules would unnecessarily complicate and politicize the board election process by weakening board nominee standards and increasing the number of contested elections.

A national mandate would grant decision-making power to small groups of shareholders who might not always prioritize a company’s wellbeing. I worry that this will encourage an incompetent election process, as board candidates may be nominated without having met the strict standards required of nominees in the past. Complicating the current, efficient system with a constant power struggle would deter qualified candidates from entering their names for board nomination.

I believe replacing the current system with a federal proxy rule will allow access where it is neither necessary nor helpful. State legislatures provide appropriate corporate governance laws, in accordance with the needs and budgets of statewide companies. Imposing a national mandate such as those endorsed by the “Proposed Rules” would pigeonhole every company into the same box, without considering their individual needs.

Please join me in defending the integrity of publicly traded companies across the country. I respectfully urge you to consider my comments and oppose the proposed changes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Dobbins, Jr.
President & CEO