

**DRUGSTORE TOBACCO SALES/RITE AID**

*Submitted by William C. Thompson, Jr., Comptroller, City of New York, on behalf of the Boards of Trustees of the New York City Employees' Retirement System and the New York City Teachers' Retirement System*

**WHEREAS, Rite Aid Corporation is one of the nation's largest retail pharmacy chains, with over 5,000 stores across 31 states, and**

**WHEREAS, Rite Aid also sell cigarettes and other tobacco products, and**

**WHEREAS, cigarette smoking is a leading cause of illness and premature death in the United States, and**

**WHEREAS, a number of governmental jurisdictions in the US and abroad have banned sales of tobacco products in pharmacies, or are considering legislation to do so, and**

**WHEREAS, several major prescription drug retailers have already banned sales of tobacco products in their retail outlets,**

**THEREFORE, shareholders request that the Board of Directors prepare a report to be made available to shareholders by November 30, 2009, on how the company is responding to rising regulatory, competitive and public pressures to halt sales of tobacco products. This report shall be prepared at reasonable cost and contain no proprietary or confidential information.**