## United States Senate

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Mr. John T. Standley
President and CEO
Rite Aid Corporation
Post Office Box 3165
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3165

Dear Mr. Standley,

I was very concerned to hear the news that Rite Aid is planning to close the company's distribution facility in Poca, West Virginia resulting in the loss of 257 jobs by 2016. As I consider the loss of even a single job in West Virginia to be a serious matter, I must tell you that I find this news even more troubling considering the efforts extended to save the distribution center years ago. I recall standing side by side with those employees in 1999 and will continue to do so today. Furthermore, I must also call into question whether or not the 64 stores in the area serviced by the Poca facility will be affected as a result of reduced inventory, travel time for products to be stocked, etc.

This permanent closure will be devastating to the employees at the facility who will be faced with the agony and uncertainty of unemployment. Many of the employees have been there for 25 or more years – and several families have multiple family members working at the facility. To find work in this struggling economy will not be easy and many may be forced to leave the homes, communities, and the people they love.

Mr. Standley, I understand Rite Aid made this decision because of the age and condition of the Poca facility. My staff was told it would be cost prohibitive to make upgrades. However, I know for a fact that Rite Aid had discussed the possibility of finding a new facility in the area and even had discussions with the West Virginia Development Office regarding potential locations in the area. I implore you to reconsider this closure and instead work with the State of West Virginia and my office to find a new, suitable location so that these employees can remain in West Virginia and on the job.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John D. Rockefeller IV