UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549 Form 10-K/A (Amendment No. 1)

☑ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended January 30, 2016

or

• TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 1-31340

The Cato Corporation

Registrant

Delaware State of Incorporation 56-0484485 I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

8100 Denmark Road Charlotte, North Carolina 28273-5975 **704/554-8510** Registrant's Telephone Number

Address of Principal Executive Offices

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of Class</u> Class A Common Stock Preferred Share Purchase Rights

Name of Exchange on Which Registered New York Stock Exchange

New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes \square No \square Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes \square No \square Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes \square No \square Indicate by check mark whether the registrant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to be check mark, if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of the Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes No The aggregate market value of the Registrant's Class A Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of August 1, 2015, the last business day of the Company's most recent second quarter, was \$994,363,842 based on the last reported sale price per share on the New York Stock Exchange on that date.

As of January 30, 2016, there were 26,129,692 shares of Class A Common Stock and 1,743,525 shares of Convertible Class B Common Stock outstanding.

Portions of the proxy statement relating to the 2016 annual meeting of shareholders are incorporated by reference into the following part of this annual report:

Part III — Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Explanatory Note

We are filing this Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2016, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on March 24, 2016 ("Original Form 10-K"), solely to correct an administrative error in the content of Exhibit 23.1, Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (the "Consent"). The Consent in the Original Form 10-K incorrectly identified the date of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's audit report as March 27, 2015. The correct date of the audit report included in the Original Form 10-K is March 24, 2016. A new consent with the correct date is filed as an exhibit attached hereto.

Pursuant to Rule 12b-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), this Form 10-K/A also contains new certifications pursuant to Sections 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which are attached hereto. Because no financial statements have been included in this Form 10-K/A and this Form 10-K/A does not contain or amend any disclosure with respect to Items 307 and 308 of Regulation S-K under the Exchange Act, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the certifications have been omitted. Pursuant to Rule 13a-14 under the Exchange Act, this Form 10-K/A also contains new certifications pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which are attached hereto.

Other than this date correction to the Consent, no other changes have been made to the Original Form 10-K. This Amendment No. 1 does not reflect subsequent events occurring after the original filing date of the Original Form 10-K or modify or update in any way disclosures made in the Original Form 10-K. Amendment No. 1 should be read in conjunction with the Original Form 10-K.

- 23.1* Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 31.1** Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.
- 31.2 ** Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Financial Officer.
- 32.1 ** Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
- 32.2 ** Section 1350 Certification of Chief Financial Officer.

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- *Filed electronically herewith.
- ** Furnished electronically herewith
- +
- 2

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Cato has duly caused this Amendment No. 1 to its Annual Report on Form 10-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

The Cato Corporation

By /s/ JOHN P. D. CATO

By

John P. D. Cato Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

By /s/ JEFFREY R. SHOCK

Jeffrey R. Shock Senior Vice President Controller

Date: January 12, 2017

/s/ JOHN R. HOWE John R. Howe Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (No. 333-188990, 333-188993, 333-176511, 333-119300, 333-119299, 33-41314, 33-41315, 33-69844, and 333-96285) of The Cato Corporation of our report dated March 24, 2016 relating to the financial statements, financial statement schedule and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in this Form 10-K.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Charlotte, North Carolina March 24, 2016

4

PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 RULE 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, John P. D. Cato, certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of The Cato Corporation (the "registrant");
- 2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

Date: January 13, 2017

/s/ John P. D. Cato John P. D. Cato Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 RULE 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED

PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, John R. Howe, certify that:

- 1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of The Cato Corporation (the "registrant");
- 2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

Date: January 13, 2017

/s/ John R. Howe John P. D. Cato Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION OF PERIODIC REPORT

I, John P. D. Cato, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Cato Corporation, certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that on the date of this Certification:

- 1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of the Company for the annual period ended January 30, 2016 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: January 13, 2017

/s/ John P. D. Cato John P. D. Cato Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION OF PERIODIC REPORT

I, John R. Howe, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Cato Corporation, certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that on the date of this Certification:

- 1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of the Company for the annual period ended January 30, 2016 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: January 13, 2017

/s/ John R. Howe John P. D. Cato Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer