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JESSICA FARRAR
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June 25, 2008

Renu Khator
Chancellor/President
University of Houston
212 E. Cullen Building
Houston, TX 77024-2018

Re: Students Against Sweatshops sweat free campus campaign

Dear Dr. Khator:

I write today at the request of graduate student Timothy J. O'Brien and the University of Houston's Students Against Sweatshops (SAS). Mr. O'Brien has informed me that SAS is currently working on a campaign that would require that all University of Houston logo clothes be manufactured in "sweat free" facilities, thus ensuring that the University of Houston discontinue the use of child, forced, and/or slave labor to manufacture its logo apparel.

One of my jobs as a member of the Texas Legislature and the House Committee on State Affairs is to oversee the organization, regulation, operation, and management of state institutions like the University of Houston. Because of this, I feel it my responsibility to inform you that I support the efforts of SAS to make the University of Houston eliminate its use of sweatshops in the production of products that carry the university's logo. As a graduate of the University of Houston, I am proud to know that students are working hard to make the school a place where worker and human rights are respected, and I urge you to continue to include students in the university decision-making process by maintaining a transparent shared governance system.


It is my understanding that one of your main goals is to help the university elevate its academic ranking and position at a national level. I fully believe that taking a leadership role in the quest to discontinue the use of child, forced, and/or slave labor to manufacture apparel is something that will help the University of Houston's reputation on all levels.

Because of this, I ask you to seriously consider joining the SAS campaign to get the University of Houston to sign on to the Designated Supplier Program (DSP) and to join the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC). As you may know, there are 45 universities signed on to the DSP. Among

those is the University of California at Berkeley, the number one ranked academic public university in the nation. The WRC has 183 top universities as affiliates.

I thank you for allowing me to share my opinion on this matter, and for all that you are doing on behalf of the University of Houston. Please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff, Lillian Ortiz, at lillian.ortiz@house.state.tx.us or at 713-691-6912 should you have any questions on this matter or if you ever need my assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JESSICA FARRAR". The letters are connected and written in a cursive style.

Jessica Farrar
District 148

cc: Students Against Sweatshops