



WORKER RIGHTS CONSORTIUM

Mr. Kevin McClatchy
Chief Executive Officer & Managing General Partner
Pittsburgh Pirates
P.O. Box 7000
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

July 10, 2006

Dear Kevin:

I write to you as the Executive Director of the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) to offer our assistance in your efforts to address concerns that have been raised by members of the Pittsburgh community about the working conditions under which Pirates logo apparel is produced. As you may know, the WRC is a non-profit organization representing 154 colleges and universities; our mandate is to assist these institutions in their efforts to ensure that apparel and other products bearing their names and logos are manufactured in a manner consistent with internationally recognized labor standards.

I have no doubt that you take the concerns that have been raised very seriously and that you, and Major League Baseball as a whole, are now seeking to address the questions that faced the university community in the late 1990s: how to make sense of the allegations that have been made of labor rights violations and how to determine whether you have adequate mechanisms in place to ensure that Pirates gear is made under appropriate working conditions.

I can tell you, based on our experience assessing factory conditions in the supply chains of major sports apparel brands, that there are good reasons to be concerned about the potential worker rights violations at factories producing logo goods for Major League teams. While some or all of your licensees may have labor rights compliance programs in place, it is not necessarily safe to assume that these programs are 1) sufficiently effective in ensuring that proper wages and working conditions are maintained in Third World production facilities, and 2) structured in such a way as to be credible to baseball fans and the general public.

The WRC operates independently of the apparel industry, both in terms of our governance and funding, and you may therefore find our perspective of value as you work through these difficult issues; we have provided advice to other organizations outside of the university community that have faced similar challenges in recent years

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(including, for example, several major cities confronted with concerns about working conditions related to the apparel they procure). I want to be clear that I do not write to you to propose any formal relationship; the WRC, as a matter of policy, does not accept membership or funding from any for-profit entity. We are interested because one of our goals as an organization is to assist institutions involved in the licensing and procurement of apparel in making informed choices about how to address the worker rights question.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these issues. If you feel this would be useful, please feel free to contact me by email at nova@workersrights.org or by phone at our office.

Best,

Scott Nova
Executive Director

cc:

Patricia Paytas, Vice President, Communications, Pittsburgh Pirates
Ethan Orlinsky, Lead Counsel, Major League Baseball Properties
Jay Marano, Licensing Coordinator, Carnegie Mellon University
Bjorn Claeson, Executive Director, Sweatfree Communities
Celeste Taylor, Organizer, Pittsburgh Anti-Sweatshop Community Alliance