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May 23, 1997

Liz Claiborne

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

This is a belated note of appreciation for your support of the Apparel Industry Partnership, as well as for the hospitality you showed to my family and me during our recent visit to Washington. There is no question that a coalition of such diverse groups would not have been able to reach agreement without the leadership of your administration.

I would note that we still have a way to go before we can declare the Partnership a real success. For example, Liz Claiborne (and other companies which have participated in Partnership activities) must encourage the industry to endorse and implement the Workplace Code of Conduct and the Principles of Monitoring.

As I have communicated to Secretary Herman, I am personally committed to this effort. In fact, I am currently speaking with apparel manufacturers, retailers and industry associations to enlist them in the fight to eradicate sweatshops.

However, before we can expect many companies to fully endorse the Partnership's recommendations, we still need to work on details, such as how an umbrella association can both implement and enforce workplace standards without keeping its members from achieving their business objectives.

As you are well aware, the groups represented in the Partnership do not have a long history of collaboration. Simply stated, there is not a great deal of mutual understanding or trust. We have to move down the road a bit in this area if important issues are to be resolved in the way I know you want.

PAUL R. CHARRON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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President William J. Clinton
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On a personal note, Kathy and I, as well as our children, Brad and Ashley, very much appreciated the opportunity to visit the White House and to meet you. It was an occasion we will long remember. Too often, these things happen without the opportunity for any family involvement. My White House visit was made considerably more special because my family was able to experience it with me. Thank you.

I look forward to further collaboration with you and Secretary Herman on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul R. Charron", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul R. Charron

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