



Interfaith Center on
Corporate Responsibility

Inspired by faith, committed to action

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1842
New York, NY 10115-0050
www.iccr.org

Tel: 212-870-2295
Fax: 212-870-2023
info@iccr.org

April 1, 2008

Senator Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harkin,

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) is a coalition of nearly 300 faith-based institutional investors representing over \$100 billion in invested capital. ICCR members bridge the divide between morality and markets by envisioning a civic economy that integrates ethical, environmental and social values. Inspired by faith, committed to action, ICCR members work to build a just and sustainable global community.

We strongly support the proposed Voluntary Certification of Child Labor Status of Agricultural Imports, section 3105 of the Food and Energy Security Act of 2007. We view this as an important step in promoting transparency and monitoring to rid commodity supply chains of child and forced labor.

Founded in 1971, ICCR promotes corporate responsibility on a range of social, environmental and economic issues. Since the early 1990s, ICCR members have taken leadership in encouraging dozens of companies to adopt, implement, monitor, and report on workplace codes of conduct for their suppliers. We call on companies to adopt supplier standards based on the International Labor Organization's core standards related to child and forced labor, freedom of association, collective bargaining and nondiscrimination. For our members, these international standards are basic human rights, and we see this as both a moral issue and a business risk for retailers whose products may be produced with child and/or forced labor.

A number of companies have implemented social accountability programs in their supply chains, and as a result some progress is being made in reducing worker mistreatment around the globe. However, there remains a large gap in monitoring more deeply down the complex global supply chains of major companies. We view Section 3105 as an important step in setting strong requirements for certification based on supply chain transparency, multi-stakeholder participation, addressing conflict of interest, and whistleblower protection. We believe this provision marks a significant step toward real assurance for consumers that the goods they purchase are not produced with abusive child labor. We strongly support these principles and encourage the implementation of the voluntary certification program outlined in Section 3105.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Rev. David M. Schilling
Program Director, Global Corporate Accountability
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility