

Chamber Watch rejoinder to Gap's response re conflict between its climate commitments and participation in US Chamber of Commerce

19 July 2017

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Gap to respond to the following coalition letter and article:

- Letter to Gap from coalition of nearly 60 organizations, urging Gap to cease funding the U.S. Chamber of Commerce:
https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/gap_coalition_sign_on_letter.pdf
- "After Paris, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Members' Reputations Are On The Line", Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Senator Elizabeth Warren, Huffington Post, 15 June 2017:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/after-paris-us-chamber-members-reputations-are-us_5942f191e4b024b7e0df4a72

Gap response (13 July 2017): *Thank you for your invitation to respond regarding Gap Inc.'s actions to address climate change and U.S. Chamber of Commerce membership. Gap Inc. is not a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We do participate in their international programming, but our contributions and our participation do not in any way contribute to the Chamber's domestic positions on climate.*

Climate change is an issue that is of utmost importance to our company. We believe that action on climate change is not an option, but an imperative. At Gap Inc, we're working towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions from our global facilities in half by the end of 2020, diverting waste from our U.S. facilities, and partnering with our suppliers around the world to adopt more sustainable manufacturing practices.

Gap Inc. was an early and active supporter of the Paris Agreement and we were proud to join the We Mean Business coalition to support the creation of greater economic opportunity through bold climate action. Additionally, Gap Inc. was one of more than 1,000 companies that signed the [Business Backs Low-Carbon USA statement](#), urging continuation of U.S. involvement in the Paris Agreement.

Earlier this year, when the United States' continued participation in the Paris Agreement began to be questioned, we signed onto a full-page "letter to the President" ad with 30 other leading companies, outlining the ways in which U.S. involvement in the Paris Agreement would benefit U.S. businesses and the economy.

Gap Inc. joined the We Are Still In initiative to reiterate our commitment to bold climate action. We will continue to work with like-minded businesses, NGOs and other stakeholders to support solutions that will create a more sustainable and economically strong future for the people and communities touched by our business around the world.

Gap Inc. remains steadfast in our support for a low-carbon economy as the right path forward for future business growth and job creation, human health and the environment. We remain focused on doing our part to achieve the sustainability goals we've set.

Chamber Watch Response: Gap Inc. includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on its publicly disclosed lists of trade association [memberships](#). Moreover, in email correspondence (available

upon request) between Chamber Watch and a Gap representative, it was confirmed that despite not agreeing with the Chamber on the issues of climate change, the Gap works in partnership with the Chamber to support other shared business goals. We believe that by giving any amount of money, to any division of the Chamber, the Gap is aiding in the Chamber's efforts to advance an [anti-worker](#), [anti-climate](#), [anti-woman agenda](#). The Chamber has [shown before](#) that money given to it is fungible, so while Gap may intend their funding to go directly to the Chamber's international programming, the money may ultimately free up other sources of funding which allows the Chamber to continue lobbying to destroy public protections. Additionally, Gap's continued funding of international programming is equally as problematic as funding its lobbying efforts on domestic policies. The Chamber does not support the [Paris Agreement](#), has [opposed](#) lowering GHG emissions, has promoted [misleading research](#) to undermine climate policy, and [promotes fossil fuels](#) over clean energy solutions. According to a [recent report](#) by Corporate Accountability International, the Chamber was present at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), giving them a seat at the table to lobby on the aforementioned stances on an international stage. Gap's broad purpose to be a good corporate citizen, especially one with a high regard for environmental stewardship, is completely undermined by its association with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and we urge Gap to stop funding any part of the Chamber immediately.