To whom it may concern:

SweatFree Communities would like to correct the record of the original version of Subsidizing Sweatshops which associated Blauer Manufacturing Co., Inc. with the Charming Garments factory in China.

In the original version of Subsidizing Sweatshops, we cited research that we conducted in May of 2008 as evidence that Charming Garment’s factory in Huizhou City, Guangdong, China was in violation of multiple labor rights regulations. In this report, we stated that Blauer uses Charming Garments to produce apparel based in part on an affidavit supplied by Blauer to the City of Milwaukee in December of 2003. Since publishing our report, Blauer has assured us that it ceased placing orders with Charming Garments in early 2007 after factory officials denied Blauer inspectors access to the factory during multiple surprise inspection visits. If company auditors were consistently denied access to monitor working conditions, and Blauer, consequently, had no means of positively influencing working conditions at Charming Garments, SweatFree Communities supports Blauer’s decision to cease doing business with the factory. Therefore, we have removed Blauer from Subidizing Sweatshops.

This letter should not be read as an endorsement of Blauer. At the same time, our report never intended to convey that Blauer’s labor and sourcing practices, or the practices of any other company mentioned in our report, are more troubling than those of other uniform companies and the apparel industry at large. As we state in the introduction to Subsidizing Sweatshops: “[B]y documenting severe human rights violations in a dozen factories in nine countries, producing for eight major uniform brands, we call attention to an industry-wide problem... The companies named in this report are not the only ones that rely on sweatshop exploitation to produce cheap uniforms for the government procurement market and they should not be singled out and barred from that market solely on the basis of this report.”

The fact that Blauer has in place a monitoring program is a positive sign that Blauer may be a constructive partner in the effort to eliminate sweatshop conditions from the uniform supply chain. We hope that companies, like Blauer, will recognize the problem, and work with us and with states and local governments to reform the industry, ensuring that taxpayer dollars do not support sweatshop conditions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bjorn Claeson, Executive Director

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Board Members
Campaign for Labor Rights
Child Labor Education and Action (Vermont)
International Labor Rights Forum
Milwaukee Clean Clothes Campaign
New York State Labor-Religion Coalition

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Presbyterian Hunger Program,
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Progressive Jewish Alliance
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South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign
(Washington)
Sweatshop Watch
United Students Against Sweatshops
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