



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

June 25, 2013

Mr. Angel Gurría  
Secretary General  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
2, rue André-Pascal  
75775 Paris CEDEX 16, France

Dear Secretary General Gurría,

In our capacity as independent facilitators of an alliance of North American brands and retailers, we wish to extend our gratitude for the invitation to participate in the important discussion on the issue of worker and fire safety in Bangladesh at the OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct. Unfortunately, the conversation in Paris will be taking place on the same day that Alliance members will be gathering in Washington, D.C. to discuss our plans to provide support for improved fire and safety conditions in Bangladesh.

As the Alliance has not yet reached a conclusion to its thinking, we are unable to provide the Forum with those details at this time. However, we welcome the opportunity to share the background on the process and direction of our dialogue to date. We regret that timing does not allow us to appear in person on Wednesday but we encourage the establishment of a joint OECD-ILO Multi-Stakeholder Forum and we look forward to continued discussion on the topic.

Under the auspices of the Bipartisan Policy Center, we are independently facilitating a robust and principled dialogue among leading garment retailers and brands as they work to achieve consensus on a single, unified safety plan designed to improve worker conditions in Bangladesh garment factories. In addition to retailers and brands, the Alliance also includes participation from industry associations, including the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), National Retail Federation (NRF), Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA), Retail Council of Canada (RCC), and the Canadian Apparel Federation (CAF).

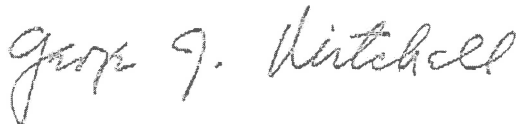
The Alliance's concerted efforts are grounded in a deep commitment by U.S. companies and Canadian companies to improve the circumstances of fire and safety in garment factories within Bangladesh and to prevent future tragedies like those that occurred at the Tazreen and Rana Plaza factories.

During the past month, through a series of in-depth discussions that we have facilitated, input from a range of stakeholders has informed a rigorous consensus-building process as work has advanced in five key areas: 1) worker training and empowerment; 2) standards for fire and building safety assessments; 3) transparency and sharing of factory inspection and training information; 4) independent oversight structure; and 5) funding. The Alliance is working toward the goal of releasing its plan in early July.

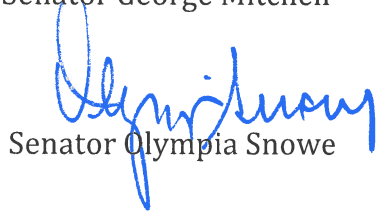
As you can see from the concurrent timing of our meetings, we cannot send an official representative from the Alliance to participate in the Global Forum because our efforts have not yet reached completion in a full and final agreement. However, we do want to take this opportunity to commend your effort to create an OECD-ILO Multi-Stakeholder Forum that will regularly convene global initiatives that seek to improve worker safety. Such a Forum would facilitate the critically important engagement between ILO/Better Work, the Accord, the Alliance, and other private and government initiatives.

Please accept our deep appreciation for your important work during the conference. The Alliance looks forward to building a sustained partnership in the coming months to create lasting change in Bangladesh.

Sincerely,



Senator George Mitchell



Senator Olympia Snowe