

## University of Connecticut Office of the President

Philip E. Austin President

July 6, 2006

Mr. Jean-Michel Ares Coca-Cola Company P.O Box 1734 Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Mr. Jay Margnelli Cold Drink Sales Manager East Hartford Sales Center East Hartford, CT

Dear Mr. Ares and Mr. Margnelli:

As you know, over the past three years several serious allegations have been made regarding the Coca-Cola Company and its bottlers. The University of Connecticut, which is among the universities that have an ongoing relationship with Coca-Cola, is actively seeking unbiased information and impartial analysis regarding these allegations, and wishes to develop a full understanding of the issues. Our hope is that we can continue a valued relationship by demonstrating to enfranchised members of the UConn community that Coca-Cola is, in fact, fulfilling its responsibilities appropriately. As part of this process, in March I asked the University's Committee on Sweatshop Labor issues to examine with great care issues pertaining to the activities of Coca-Cola bottlers in Colombia. Members of the Committee met with Mr. Margnelli in person and with several Coca-Cola representatives in Atlanta, including Mr. Ed Potter, via telephone.

With the announcement of a possible International Labour Organization assessment, we contacted Ms. Sally Paxton, Executive Director for Social Dialogue at the ILO, to learn more about the proposed process. We were pleased at the apparent willingness of the ILO to conduct an independent assessment of current working conditions at your bottling plant in Colombia. While such an assessment is certainly a step towards addressing the concerns that have been raised, a number of other issues continue to concern members of the University of Connecticut community, as they do students, faculty and administrators at several other institutions. These include allegations of past violence against union leaders in Colombia as well as continuing intimidation of labor leaders in Colombia, separate allegations regarding the activities of Coca-Cola in Turkey and Indonesia, and allegations of serious environmental problems relating to Coca-Cola bottlers in India. To get more information in the latter case, we are currently reviewing actions by the Joint Parliament in India, the Kerala State Pollution Board, the Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on Hazardous Waste, the High Court of Rajasthan, the Supreme Court of India and other Indian officials.

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At my request, the University of Connecticut Committee on Sweatshop Labor is continuing to review the allegations against Coca-Cola with great care, and with an open mind. I have enclosed for your information a copy of extensive documentation provided by students at the University of Connecticut. I pass this on to you with the hope that you will respond in detail to the serious charges contained therein. Your response and any related information you can provide will be of great help to us as we continue in our ongoing review.

You may be aware that the University of Connecticut has taken a leadership role in pursuing both a scholarly and practical understanding of human rights issues. We are eager that all of our business partners act in a manner that demonstrates a commitment to the goal of universal human dignity and economic opportunity.

Our review of the Coca-Cola situation is designed to assure that our relationship with you is consistent with that position. I recognize that a corporation with multinational operations may experience occasional instances in which affiliates do not act in a manner consistent with the corporation's general policy. My hope, however, is that Coca-Cola can provide credible assurance that the allegations referenced above are without merit, or that full remediation has been undertaken, or, if the allegations pertain to entities over which Coca-Cola has no direct control, that you are using your full influence to achieve a positive outcome. If so, we will be well positioned to continue our exclusive contract with Coca-Cola, and will not need to take the subsequent step of considering alternate means of meeting our beverage needs.

Sincerely.

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Enclosure