



WORKER RIGHTS CONSORTIUM

Statement of the WRC Board of Directors: January 20, 2006

The WRC's role is to assist universities and colleges in the enforcement of their Codes of Conduct. In fulfillment of this role, the WRC would like to offer its views to affiliate institutions about the proposed Designated Suppliers Program. The purpose of this statement is to offer guidance to affiliates as they consider the significant changes to existing Code of Conduct enforcement strategies that have been proposed by United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

The WRC believes the Designated Suppliers Program proposed by USAS represents the most effective way forward to achieve sustainable Code of Conduct enforcement. The WRC supports the Designated Suppliers Program and recommends its adoption by colleges and universities. Based on extensive legal consultation with experienced antitrust and labor counsel, we are confident that universities can adopt the proposed program and implement it in a manner consistent with applicable U.S. laws.

Based on an assessment provided by the organization's staff, we are confident that the WRC will have the resources and capacity necessary to assist universities with the enforcement of such a policy, as outlined in the USAS proposal, if directed to do so by affiliate institutions.

We recognize that, if universities and colleges decide to adopt the proposed program, an implementation plan will be required that will need to address a range of details. If schools make such a decision, we believe that input should be sought from all relevant parties, including licensees, factory managers, and workers and their representatives, in the development of such an implementation plan.

The WRC is committed to serving as a resource for colleges and universities as they consider the Designated Suppliers Program and its implementation. The WRC will provide information and conduct research on issues of interest to the university community related to the proposed policy. The WRC will also act as a clearinghouse for information on decisions made by universities on the Designated Suppliers Program by posting on the website any public statements provided by affiliate institutions concerning the adoption of the policy.