Wal-Mart Shareholder Meeting Fayetteville, AR Proxy Speech for the Establish a Human Rights Committee Resolution (3 min.)

Delivered by Trina Tocco on behalf of Harrington Investments June 6, 2008

Good Morning,

My name is Trina Tocco of the Big Box Collaborative. I am here on the proxy of Harrington Investments, the sponsor of Resolution #7 which calls for the establishment of a Committee for Human Rights. It is in the interests of the company, investors, and customers that Wal-Mart maintains a business model that respects basic human rights, the environment and communities. In doing so, Wal-Mart will further establish its demonstrated leadership in the retail industry.

Just yesterday, there was a major release of a broad list of standards that over 30 organizations have endorsed. This release signifies a common platform of many of Wal-Mart's most vocal critics. As shareholders, we hope that Wal-Mart will appeal to its critics and develop an assessment indicating Wal-Mart's progress on the 20 standards released yesterday.

I stand before you today because I have heard the stories of Wal-Mart factory workers and know that something needs to be done immediately. Wal-Mart can do more than just report on labor rights violations found in factories. Wal-Mart has the power to use its enormous size to make sure that all of its workers are respected as human beings. Wal-Mart can go further than documenting factory violations. Wal-Mart can develop sustainable purchasing policies in order to prevent the widespread nonpayment of minimum wages and forced overtime at factories around the world.

Wal-Mart remains the only company that has been investigated by Human Rights Watch for its labor practices in the U.S. This record is a source of shame for the company. One of the issues highlighted in the report is an employee's right to form a union. Wal-Mart has freedom of association in its Standards for Suppliers but yet has continued its "no union" policy at retail stores in the US. These anti-union practices have continued to fuel a significant anti-Wal-Mart media campaign.

A committee on Human Rights could be used to address such concerns. This committee could also work with the Sustainable Value Networks so that the definition of a sustainable Wal-Mart is one in which labor and environment is assessed.

A Board Committee on Human Rights would send a strong signal that Wal-Mart is ready to take issues head on and as investors, this is something we must see as our company's public image continues to suffer. As shareholders of Wal-Mart, we want the company to take the concerns of its critics more seriously.

I urge my fellow shareholders to vote for the Establishment of a Board Committee so that our company can be uplifted as a leader in the retail industry not just for having strong sales figures but also for transforming its business model so that negative impact on the environment, workers and communities is kept to the utmost minimum.