November 14, 2018

Nely Rodriguez and Kimberly Daley:

I am responding to your letter to the Board of Regents dated October 18, 2018. I want to first thank you for raising this important issue both at the October Regents meeting and in your letter. We share your commitment to promoting human rights throughout the supply chain for university-procured goods and the President’s Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights (PACLSHR) advises me and the University on the best way to do so.

I have asked the PACLSHR to consider your letter and the specific requests mentioned within and to provide me with a recommendation on any next steps. Although the PACLSHR primarily deals with licensed University goods, they have been studying ways to promote the protection of human rights and labor standards in food procurement as reflected in the student study cited in your letter. When I attended the committee’s October 2018 meeting this was a particular topic of our discussion.

The University of Michigan is committed to the continued improvement of labor standards and human rights in the global supply chain, and I look forward to hearing the committee’s thoughts on your letter. Thank you again for raising this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Schlissel
President