



Alliance to End Slavery and
Trafficking
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August 28, 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
The Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
U.S. Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
The Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
U.S. Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Chairman
The Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
The Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R.3226/S.1968 Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015

Dear Chairmen Hensarling and Shelby and Ranking Members Waters and Brown:

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) is a diverse alliance of U.S.-based organizations, acting with a shared agenda to end all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking domestically and globally. ATEST supports the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act of 2015 (H.R.3226/S.1968) and urges the committee leadership to support and ensure full consideration of the bill.

In 2014, the Department of Labor (DOL) identified 136 goods from 74 countries made by forced and child labor. An estimated 85 million child laborers are engaged in hazardous work. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, workers, including children, are required to extract minerals from hazardous mines; these minerals are shipped to industrialized nations for use in electronics, jewelry manufacturing, and many other industries.

Prior to the Civil War, when slave labor drove economic development in the American South, northern business leaders publicly opposed slavery while simultaneously being the primary consumers of cotton picked on slave plantations. Today, companies can do better. Congress can assist this effort by ensuring that American consumers and investors

have information that will help them to avoid inadvertent consumption of goods produced by forced labor.

H.R.3226/S.1968 requires covered issuers that have annual worldwide global receipts in excess of \$100 million to include in their annual reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission a disclosure describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains. The provision does not require a company to take any specific action to combat human trafficking. Instead it requires a company to disclose transparently any actions it has taken, including whether a company maintains a policy prohibiting its employees and employees associated with its supply chain from engaging in commercial sex acts with a minor. H.R.3226/S.1968 recognizes a company's ability to positively impact human rights around the world.

Investors, consumers, and civil society increasingly demand that companies be sensitive to social and ethical issues and exercise due diligence to eliminate human rights violations including human trafficking from their global supply chains. In 2010, the state of California passed the Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010, which contains provisions similar to H.R. 3226/S. 1968, and in March of 2014 the UK Parliament passed the Modern Slavery Act, which also requires businesses to disclose steps they are taking to address forced labor and human trafficking in their supply chains. Reauthorizations of the Trafficking in Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2003 and 2005, Executive Orders 13126 and 13627, and the 2015 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report have also affirmed that business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and that States have a duty to ensure these rights are protected. This forward-looking bill recognizes the power of companies to address human trafficking globally through focusing attention on transparency in supply chains. Additionally, passage of this provision would demonstrate the commitment of the U.S. to combating modern slavery and promoting freedom throughout the world.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to support passage of H.R.3226/S.1968.

Sincerely,

Abuse Prevention Solutions, LLC

Advocacy for Principled Action in Government

Aquinas Associates

Beaver County Anti Human Trafficking Coalition

Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition

Broward Human Trafficking Coalition

California National Organization for Women (NOW)

Calvert Investments

Catholic Health Initiatives

Center for the Human Rights of Children, Loyola University Chicago

Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition

Child Labor Coalition

Church Women United in New York State

Civil Society

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

Coalition of Religious Congregations to Stop Trafficking of Persons (CRC-STOP)

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Congregation of Holy Cross, Moreau Province

Covenant House Pennsylvania

CREA

Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

Dignity Health

Diocese of Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force

Dominican Sisters of Peace

ECPAT-USA

Eden House New Orleans

FB Consulting

Franciscan Action Network

Franciscan Peace Center

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Inc.

Free the Slaves

Futures Without Violence (FUTURES)

Global Financial Integrity

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Global Workers Justice Alliance

Greenpeace

HEAL Trafficking

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA-SSpS

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

International Initiative to End Child Labor

International Institute of Buffalo

International Justice Mission

International Labor Rights Forum

International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

Jewish Women International

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province

KidSafe Foundation

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America

Loyola University Modern Slavery Research Project

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern USA

MassKids

Medical Mission Sisters

Mercy Health

Mercy Investment Services

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

National Consumers League

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Jewish Women CA

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)

National Education Association

Nomi Network

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Ozone House Youth & Family Services

p.h. balanced films

Polaris

Portfolio Advisory Board, Adrian Dominican Sisters

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order

Provincial Council of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province

Rabbinical Assembly

Racine Dominican Sisters

Religious Sisters of Charity

Responsible Sourcing Network

Safe Horizon

Seattle Against Slavery

Sensibilities Prevention Services

Seventh Generation Interfaith

Sinsinawa Dominicans

Sioux City Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission

Siouxland Coalition against Human Trafficking

Sisters of Charity Health System

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine Health System

Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul of New York

Sisters of Christian Doctrine

Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ

Sisters of St. Dominic, Blauvelt, New York

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace Leadership Team

Sisters of St. Joseph-Baden,PA

Sisters of the Good Shepherd-Province of NY

Sisters of the Presentation of Aberdeen, S.D.

Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother

Slavery Today Journal

Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province

Solidarity Center

Southern Poverty Law Center

St. Joseph Health

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Thai Community Development Center

The Tronie Foundation

There Is Hope For Me, Inc.

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

Trinity Health

U.S. Fund for UNICEF

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus

Verité

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Washington Engage

Women Graduates-USA

Women of Color Network, Inc.

Women's Foundation of Minnesota

Worker Justice Center of NY, Inc.

About ATEST

The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) is a U.S. based coalition that advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. ATEST member organizations include: Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), ECPAT-USA, Free the Slaves, Futures Without Violence (FUTURES), International Justice Mission, National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), National Network for Youth (NN4Y), Polaris, Safe Horizon, Solidarity Center, Verité, Vital Voices Global Partnership, and World Vision. ATEST is a project of Humanity United.