



**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INVALIDS
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Ref. *172-12* / MOLISA

H.E. Mdm' Hilda L. Solis
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
299 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210

Hanoi, 23rd November 2012

Ref: Opposition to the inclusion of Brick and Garment from Viet Nam in DOL's 2012 Lists of Goods produced by Child Labor and Forced Labor under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and Executive Order 13126.

Dear Madam Secretary,

I am writing you again following the letter dated 26th October 2012 to kindly request the U.S Department of Labor to remove Viet Nam's garment and brick from the "List of goods produced by child labor and forced labor".

As you may know, protection of child rights and human rights in labor issues has always been a basic goal for sustainable development efforts of Viet Nam. Such efforts and relevant achievements are highly recognized by many countries, international organizations and United Nations Agencies operating in Viet Nam.

The incidents listed as reference for the Report released on 26th September 2012 by the U.S. Department of Labor were individual cases scattered in small businesses in the informal sector which were properly addressed upon detection. Therefore, those incidents cannot be considered general facts in Viet Nam. Among the incidents listed for garment, 10 had been closed down, the remaining 15 units are in child-free operation. This matter was discussed in details with the U.S. Deputy Under-Secretary of Labor during the Labor Dialogue on 09th November 2012 in Hanoi.

I would like to attach herewith information about Viet Nam's efforts on elimination of child labor and forced labor and kindly request that this letter and the previous one dated on 26th October 2012 and the attachments will be considered and attached to the U.S. Department of Labor's related Reports.

In order to update you with information on the situation in Viet Nam, we are willing to welcome and work with the staff from the DOL who took part in the drafting of the above mentioned report.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Best regards,



Pham Minh Huan

Vice Minister

CC:

- The U.S. State Department
- United States Department of Homeland Security
- Mr. Tom Harkin, United States Senator, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- Ms. Gayle Smith, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director, National Security Council
- Mr. Ian Solomon, United States Executive Director, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Ms. Barbara Weisel, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- H.E. David Shear, U.S. Ambassador to Viet Nam
- Mr. Ron Kirk, Trade Counselor, U.S. Embassy in Viet Nam
- H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam
- H.E. Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S.
- H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam
- H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam