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AMERICAN
APPAREL &
FOOTWEAR
ASSOCIATION

June 29, 2018

The Honorable Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the ongoing political and social crisis in Nicaragua that we believe threatens not only the rights, livelihoods, and physical safety of workers and others, but also the capacity of Nicaragua's industries that export around the world.

Collectively, we represent apparel brands and industry associations that have sourcing relationships in Nicaragua. We each have longstanding public commitments to advancing workers' rights and the rule of law in the countries from which we source and we see these commitments as central to the way in which we do business. As such, we are committed to working with our business partners to ensure the safety of workers, and to supporting a peaceful resolution needed for the country's social and economic wellbeing.

The situation in Nicaragua over the past two months has directly impacted workers and our sourcing operations. We urge you to take immediate steps to ensure respect for the rule of law, to end the excessive use of force by the security forces of the State, and to protect freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. We were encouraged by the agreement on June 15 between the government and civic groups, which holds great promise for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. We urge your government to continue those negotiations. Finally, we strongly encourage the Government of Nicaragua to act upon all the recommendations included in the report issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on June 22, 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We recognize and appreciate the Government of Nicaragua's commitment to promoting improved livelihoods and working conditions for apparel industry workers in Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

Adidas

Gap Inc.

Under Armour

Patagonia

New Balance

Nike

Fanatics

Fair Labor Association

American and Apparel & Footwear Association

Cc: H.E. Francisco Obadiah Campbell Hooker, Ambassador to the United States
General Alvaro Baltodano, President, The National Free Zone Commission
José Enrique Espinoza Peña, Vice Minister, Ministry of Labor
James Scott, President, Nicaraguan Industry Association of Apparel and Textile
Miguel Ruiz Estrada, Secretary General, Confederacion Sindical de Trabajadores-
Jose Benito Escobar
Roberto Gonzalez, Secretary General, Central Sandinista de Trabajadores
Pedro Ortega Mendez, Secretary General, National federation of Textile, Clothing,
Leather and Footwear Unions
Jose Adan Aguerri, President, Superior Council of Private Enterprise COSEP
Maria Nelly Rivas, President, Amcham Nicaragua
Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
Valter Sanches, General Secretary, IndustriALL
Marino Vani, Regional Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, IndustriALL
Dan Rees, Director, Better Work