



SenateResolution:

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Whereas, in April of 2013, the Rana Plaza Factory collapse killed over 1,100 Bangladesh workers. This collapse was the deadliest garment factory accident in history and deadliest structural failure in modern human history

Whereas, this factory collapse was not an isolated event in Bangladesh. Three of the four largest disasters in the history of the garment industry occurred in Bangladesh in recent years, killing over 1,500 workers and injuring countless more.

Whereas, these labors accidents are due to insufficient investment by international apparel brands in Bangladesh textile factory sources. Due to insufficient investment, Bangladesh factory sources have lacked the financial means to meet safety standards.

Whereas, to address this issue, over 120 international brands and retailers have signed onto the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. Signatories include Abercrombie and Fitch, American Eagle Outfitters, and H&M.

Whereas, the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh is effective for a number of reasons. It is legally binding; signatories who violate the Accord will be tried in their domicile country. It avoids conflicts of interest; factory inspections are conducted by independent industries. It commits corporations to invest in the factories they source to through financial and time bound regulations.

Whereas, a number of corporations sourcing to Bangladesh have rejected the Accord, many of which universities such as Rutgers are contracted with.

Whereas, ten universities, including University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, New York University, Temple University, and Cornell University have amended their Codes of Conduct requiring that all apparel licensees disclosed to source to Bangladesh as of January 2013 sign the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh.

Whereas, the Accord is financially feasible for corporations. The annual signatory costs are minimal; signatories whose yearly volume is less than one million dollars pay \$1000 annually.

Whereas, of the more than 300 licensees that Rutgers is contracted with, only 13 are disclosed to source to Bangladesh as of January 2013.

Whereas Nike, one of Rutgers University's major licensees is not one of these 13 licensees.

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Senate urges President Barchito amend the Rutgers University Code of Conduct by May 1st to require that all licensees disclosed to source to Bangladesh as of January 2013 sign the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh.