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Michigan State AFL-CIO

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MARK T. GAFFNEY, *President*

TINA ABBOTT, *Secretary-Treasurer*

April 28, 2000

President Lee C. Bollinger
The University of Michigan
2074 Fleming Administration Building
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

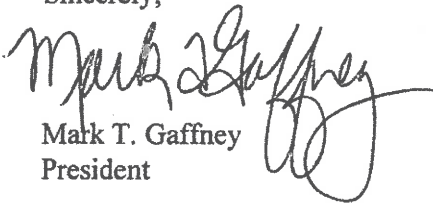
Dear President Bollinger:

Enclosed is a copy of a press release that we have sent out today from the Michigan State AFL-CIO.

I would like to thank you and congratulate you for taking this very important stand. Clearly the issue of making huge profits at the expense of exploited workers is a major issue for people in other nations, but it is also an issue that Americans can no longer disregard. When companies can continue to find workers who will produce goods for pennies an hour, this places millions of American workers at risk while at the same time doing little to raise the foreign workers' living standards.

I want you to know that we support your continued efforts to bring the issues of worker rights and human rights around the world to the forefront. Also, if there is anything that we can do to assist your efforts, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,


Mark T. Gaffney
President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2000

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Negotiations Breakdown Between UM and Nike

Michigan State AFL-CIO president Mark Gaffney today applauded the worker rights and human rights stand taken by the University of Michigan which led to the breakdown of negotiations between the university and Nike Corporation.

"With the limited information we have available at this time, it is still not clear whether or not the University of Michigan and Nike will ultimately come to some sort of agreement in the future. What is clear is that the university has joined with a number of other universities around the country to send a message to Nike Corporation. The message being that it is unacceptable to exploit workers anywhere in the world."

Gaffney praised the efforts of many University of Michigan student activists, as well as other labor and community activists in Michigan for keeping the pressure on UM regarding their agreements with Nike. He also added that the university administration deserves credit for taking this step.

"There is clearly a good deal of risk involved for the university if the negotiations break down. However, these are the kinds of things that have to happen in order for social change to take place. Americans can no longer look the other way when it comes to the poor working conditions and human rights violations that have taken place in order to produce goods for American based corporations and the American consumer market. The University of Michigan has taken a giant step in the right direction and we support their efforts."