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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2012

Timothy D. Cook
Chief Executive Officer
Apple Inc.
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Cook:

Apple's iPads, iPhones, and other products have understandably earned the devotion of people around the world. American consumers and the American public, however, expect more than just innovative and user-friendly products. They want to be assured that the products they buy are made by workers whose dignity and basic human rights are respected. I was encouraged by Apple's commitment to addressing reports of the harsh conditions reported at numerous Chinese factories that manufacture Apple products. Harsh working and living conditions have been reported not only at Apple-producing facilities run by Foxconn but at other Apple suppliers as well.

As reports indicate, Chinese workers who make iPads and iPhones have often toiled long hours under dangerous conditions for little pay. The Chinese government does nothing to stop these abuses, and workers in China lack the basic right to freedom of association. The result is that Apple shoulders a great responsibility for improving working conditions and providing workers with a voice.

In March 2012, the Fair Labor Association (FLA) released the findings of its investigation into Foxconn factories in Shenzhen and Chengdu. As a result, Apple and Foxconn promised to take concrete steps to address some of the problems identified in the FLA report. Promises include complying with China's overtime laws while protecting pay; ensuring union elections free from management interference; improving the system of recording accidents; paying workers fairly for overtime and work-related meetings; and helping workers secure employment and insurance benefits.

Apple should move quickly to fulfill these promises and keep the American people informed of its progress in this regard. To that end, I request that Apple provide my office with periodic

updates on its progress toward fulfilling these promises, as well as updates on Apple's broader efforts to improve working and living conditions throughout Apple's supply chain in China.

In addition, I urge Apple to share this information with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) and to strengthen its engagement with ILAB. ILAB's work with China touches upon many of the concerns raised in the Apple reports, and the agency would be a helpful partner in addressing such concerns.

Apple has a proud tradition of innovation in its field. It should exercise that same creativity and leadership to improve working conditions in China. By doing so, Apple would set a powerful example for other companies to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator