RE: Hotel Chains and Human Trafficking

Greetings,

I am very concerned about the issue of human trafficking, a phenomenon that affects virtually every country, including the United States. As a guest at your hotel, I wanted to share information and learn what you and your parent company are doing to protect human rights and educate your staff.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 2.5 million people are victims of human trafficking, including forced labor and sexual exploitation. Some of the most vulnerable who fall prey to trafficking are children, through prostitution and sex tourism.

Many major hotels now have or are working to create an ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children, to train hotel staff to help identify human trafficking, and to partner with government and social service agencies. Reporting on your website the actions your company is taking would help keep guests like me informed of your commitment, is evidence of proactive and attentive management, and is an important aspect of corporate social responsibility.

Developing a corporate policy, training staff, and reporting publicly are components of an industry-wide Code of Conduct called The Code (www.thecode.org), a practical tool facilitating the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourism sector. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative in collaboration with ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking – www.ecpat.net) with over 800 members in 32 countries and is recognized among tourism industry associations, governments, and child rights and protection organizations, such as the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Signatories include Carlson Companies, Accor, and the American Society of Travel Agents.

Please give this letter to the Hotel Manager and to the company CEO so that senior management can learn of my interest in this issue and can respond. I have provided my name and address below. As the marketplace increasingly demonstrates, companies must be aware of and sensitive to social and ethical issues. As a customer, the moral and ethical standards a hotel embraces as evidenced by its policies and practices are very important to me.

By taking action to eradicate human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of children, your hotel can signal your commitment to human rights. At the same time, I can feel comfortable that I am giving my business to a responsible member of our local and global community.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

_____