

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW YORK CITY PENSION FUNDS' PROPOSAL
WAL-MART STORES 2011 ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2011

Good Morning. I am Kalpona Akter and I am honored to come here from Bangladesh to present **Proposal No. 8** on behalf of New York City Comptroller John Liu and the New York City Pension Funds. The New York City Funds are long-term shareholders, with 5.7 million shares of Wal-Mart common stock valued at more than \$300 million.

Proposal 8 calls on Wal-Mart's Board of Directors to require the Company's suppliers to publish an annual, independently verifiable sustainability report. A report would include a supplier's objective assessment and measurement of performance on workplace safety and human and worker rights, using internationally recognized standards, indicators and measurement protocols.

In opposing this resolution, Wal-Mart claims it has standards in place that address the treatment of workers by suppliers and supplier workplace safety. The Company points to its Supplier Code of Conduct and its audits to identify supplier non-compliance.

I started working in a garment factory in Bangladesh when I was 12 years old. Now I am the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity. And I have traveled here today to tell you why Wal-Mart's standards are not enough.

Based on my own experiences, the working conditions in Wal-Mart's global supply chain are very difficult. In my country, Bangladesh, garment workers receive just 20 cents an hour--barely

enough to put food on the table for one worker, let alone her family. This work takes place in remarkably unsafe conditions. Last year over 40 workers were killed in fires at garment factories. After workers at a Nassa Group factory that supplies Walmart approached my organization for labor rights education, our nongovernmental organization registration was revoked and falsified criminal charges were brought against us.

Last August I was arrested and imprisoned for a month. Today my colleagues and I still face the charges, which could result in a possible life sentence or even the death penalty for my colleagues.

I have with me a petition to CEO Mike Duke, asking you, Mr. Duke, to tell your suppliers to drop the false charges against me and my colleagues. More than 100,000 people have signed this petition. As one of the largest buyers of garments from Bangladesh your voice will be heard.

But my story is just one example of the serious and widespread abuses occurring in Wal-Mart's supply chain. These abuses pose a major risk to Wal-Mart's reputation and brand, and therefore to long-term shareholder value.

And I can tell you from personal experience that the supplier audits the company relies on to manage these risks are grossly inadequate. Suppliers know when the auditors are coming and coach the workers on what to say.

The proposal put forward by Comptroller Liu and the New York City Pension Funds would bring needed transparency and accountability to a supplier network that currently operates in the shadows.

I urge the Board of Directors to reconsider its opposition to the Funds' proposal.

Thank you.