

Balthan (Western) Limited

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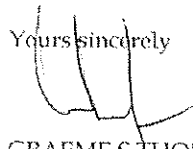
Mr William D. Jackson
Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade
Representative,
Chairman, GSP Subcommittee
Of the Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508
USA

Dear Mr Jackson

On behalf of our Company, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) case (003-CP-11) concerning whether the republic of Fiji provides it's workers internationally recognized workers rights. We advise as follows:-

1. We are located at Lot 8 Kura St, Laucala Beach Estate, Suva, Fiji.
2. Our Company is 100% owned by Fiji citizens.
3. We commenced operations in 1975.
4. We have 15 employees. We are not unionized.
5. As mutually agreed at time of commencement of employment.
6. Industrial relations - employers/employees - excellent.
7. Normal benefits such as sick pay, annual holidays, paid public holidays, and overtime.
8. 90% of our employees are women.
9. We provide employment for those who come from surrounding low income residential areas, and contribute financially towards bereavements, and other staff social obligations that may arise.
10. Regular weekly wages provided, whereas some maybe unemployed, being in the agriculture industry, 100% of our products are exported, the purchase of crops greatly benefits our rural producers.
11. Not applicable see 4.
12. As per international agreements, which Fiji is signatory to.
13. Would increase our cost of products landing in US and make us less competitive.
14. See 13.
15. Any contacts with our Ministry of Labour are always conducted on a professional and amicable basis.

Yours sincerely



GRAEME S THORPE
Managing Director