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**Grace Meng**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**6th District, New York**

**COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

**HOUSE GUN VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION TASK FORCE**

April 29, 2013

Glenn Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer  
GAP Global Headquarters  
San Francisco  
2 Folsom St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to express my outrage at the recent deadly building collapse that occurred at Rana Plaza near Dhaka, Bangladesh. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am deeply worried about working conditions at garment factories in Bangladesh and throughout the region. While I fully understand that American companies and foreign direct investment stimulates the local economy and provides jobs, it is the moral responsibility of American companies that procure goods within the country to ensure their suppliers operate safe factories.

This tragic incident in Bangladesh, along with the Tazreen Factory fire in November of 2012, demonstrates the long overdue need for effective safety inspections, better working conditions and accountable supply chains. While the arrest of the factory owner at Rana Plaza is an important step in providing justice for victims and their families, companies must focus on preventative measures so these tragedies are avoided in the future. In just these two incidents, over five hundred people have died on crowded factory floors in Bangladesh because of deplorable working and safety conditions. In light of recent reporting by the Human Rights Watch, which states there are only 18 inspectors for the nearly 100,000 factories in and around Dhaka, I have no doubt that other workers are at grave risk of injury and death.

Before another senseless tragedy occurs, I urge American companies contracting with factories in Bangladesh to take a leading role in protecting their subcontracted employees abroad. American companies should demand that their contracted suppliers correct all safety violations

and dismiss any contractor that places people's lives at risk. Furthermore, they should be aware that American consumers and policy makers expect them to be accountable for their supply chains and will judge them as such in the future.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Meng', with a stylized, flowing script.

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Identical copies of this letter have been sent to the following:

Mr. Michael T. Duke  
Chief Executive Officer  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.  
Bentonville, AR 72716

Kevin M. Burke  
President and CEO  
The American Apparel & Footwear Association  
1601 North Kent Street #1200  
Arlington, VA 22209