Dear Mr. Temares:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Our new laboratory testing found:

- PVC shower curtains can release as many as 108 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. VOCs are chemicals that easily turn into gases and contaminate our air.
- Some of these chemicals cause developmental damage as well as damage to the liver and central nervous, respiratory, and reproductive systems. Some can cause cancer in animals; some are suspected or known to cause cancer in humans.
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s classifies 7 of the chemicals released as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.
- Some chemicals were found in the air 28 days after a PVC shower curtain was unwrapped and hung.
- The level of Total VOCs measured was over 16 times greater than the recommended guidelines for indoor air quality established by the U.S. Green Building Council and Washington State Indoor Air Quality Program, violating these guidelines for no less than seven days.
- PVC shower curtains contain high levels of phthalates. Some phthalates have been linked to reproductive problems including shorter pregnancy duration and premature breast development in girls, sperm damage and impaired reproductive development in males.
- PVC shower curtains contain organotins, which can affect the central nervous system, skin, liver, immune system and reproductive system.
- PVC shower curtains can contain one or more of these metals: lead, cadmium, mercury and/or chromium.

PVC plastic, as used in shower curtains and other products in the home, poses serious environmental and health threats during its production, use, and disposal. PVC production involves extremely hazardous chemicals as the building block for vinyl materials, vinyl chloride, causes a rare form of liver cancer as well as damage to the liver and central nervous system. Workers in the vinyl industry face continuing health hazards because of vinyl chloride exposure and the risk of accidents and explosions. PVC production also pollutes communities surrounding vinyl manufacturing facilities by toxic exposure to the raw process chemicals, product intermediates, and production waste.

Both manufacture and disposal of PVC lead to the formation of dioxins when vinyl is burned. Dioxins are a highly toxic group of chemicals that accumulate in our environment, in the food we eat, and in our bodies. Dioxins cause cancer and can harm the immune and reproductive
systems. PVC cannot be safely disposed of in municipal landfills either: toxic PVC additives leach out of the material into groundwater, and the danger of accidental landfill fires can contribute to further production of dioxins.

As detailed in our report, we now know that PVC shower curtains contribute significantly to indoor air pollution. The US EPA has ranked indoor air pollution 4th in cancer risk among the top 13 environmental problems analyzed and has also been ranked a major risk to human health by the World Health Organization and American Lung Association. Indoor concentrations of VOCs have been found to be greater than outdoor levels: one study found indoor levels up to ten times higher than those outdoors, even in locations with significant outdoor air pollution sources. Since people spend a large portion of time in their home, they may be exposed to harmful levels of chemicals released from PVC shower curtains, as well as other PVC consumer and building products.

In response to these and other concerns about the toxic life cycle of PVC, major retailers across the world, including IKEA and Marks & Spencer, are choosing to phase out 100% of their use of PVC in shower curtains. Many others, including Bed Bath & Beyond, JC Penney, Macys, Sears Holdings (Sears and Kmart), and Target, are joining the wave by improving the safety of their products by developing plans to offer more PVC-free options. In addition, dozens of other companies, including Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Nike, and Apple have reduced PVC in products and packaging in a wide variety of consumer products.

We urge you to strengthen your company’s commitment to safe products by phasing out PVC shower curtains and packaging with safer, PVC-free products such as EVA plastic, nylon, organic cotton, polyester, and PEVA plastic.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this pressing public health and consumer safety issue with your company. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact Mike Schade at (212) 964-3680 or mike@chej.org

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Schade
PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
Byron L. Bergren, President and CEO
The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc.
2801 E. Market St.
York, PA 17402

June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Bergren:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Our new laboratory testing found:

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PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
James B. Pekarek, CFO  
Cornerstone Brands, Inc.  
5568 West Chester Rd.  
West Chester, OH 45069  

June 12, 2008  

Dear Mr. Pekarek:  

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9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
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Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Feld:

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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
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mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Dillard:

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PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
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mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
Dear Mr. Beré:

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We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this pressing public health and consumer safety issue with your company. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact Mike Schade at (212) 964-3680 or mike@chej.org

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Sincerely,

Michael Schade
PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
Robert Sasser, President and CEO
Dollar Tree, Inc.
500 Volvo Pkwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23320

June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Sasser:

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9 Murray Street, Suite 300
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Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Ms. Turf:

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As detailed in our report, we now know that PVC shower curtains contribute significantly to indoor air pollution. The US EPA has ranked indoor air pollution 4th in cancer risk among the top 13 environmental problems analyzed and has also been ranked a major risk to human health by the World Health Organization and American Lung Association. Indoor concentrations of VOCs have been found to be greater than outdoor levels: one study found indoor levels up to ten times higher than those outdoors, even in locations with significant outdoor air pollution sources. Since people spend a large portion of time in their home, they may be exposed to harmful levels of chemicals released from PVC shower curtains, as well as other PVC consumer and building products.

In response to these and other concerns about the toxic life cycle of PVC, major retailers across the world, including IKEA and Marks & Spencer, are choosing to phase out 100% of their use of PVC in shower curtains. Many others, including Bed Bath & Beyond, JC Penney, Macys, Sears Holdings (Sears and Kmart), and Target, are joining the wave by improving the safety of their products by developing plans to offer more PVC-free options. In addition, dozens of other companies, including Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Nike, and Apple have reduced PVC in products and packaging in a wide variety of consumer products.

We urge you to strengthen your company’s commitment to safe products by phasing out PVC shower curtains and packaging with safer, PVC-free products such as EVA plastic, nylon, organic cotton, polyester, and PEVA plastic.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this pressing public health and consumer safety issue with your company. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact Mike Schade at (212) 964-3680 or mike@chej.org

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Schade
PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Levine:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Our new laboratory testing found:

- PVC shower curtains can release as many as 108 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. VOCs are chemicals that easily turn into gases and contaminate our air.
- Some of these chemicals cause developmental damage as well as damage to the liver and central nervous, respiratory, and reproductive systems. Some can cause cancer in animals; some are suspected or known to cause cancer in humans.
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s classifies 7 of the chemicals released as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.
- Some chemicals were found in the air 28 days after a PVC shower curtain was unwrapped and hung.
- The level of Total VOCs measured was over 16 times greater than the recommended guidelines for indoor air quality established by the U.S. Green Building Council and Washington State Indoor Air Quality Program, violating these guidelines for no less than seven days.
- PVC shower curtains contain high levels of phthalates. Some phthalates have been linked to reproductive problems including shorter pregnancy duration and premature breast development in girls, sperm damage and impaired reproductive development in males.
- PVC shower curtains contain organotins, which can affect the central nervous system, skin, liver, immune system and reproductive system.
- PVC shower curtains can contain one or more of these metals: lead, cadmium, mercury and/or chromium.

PVC plastic, as used in shower curtains and other products in the home, poses serious environmental and health threats during its production, use, and disposal. PVC production involves extremely hazardous chemicals as the building block for vinyl materials, vinyl chloride, causes a rare form of liver cancer as well as damage to the liver and central nervous system. Workers in the vinyl industry face continuing health hazards because of vinyl chloride exposure and the risk of accidents and explosions. PVC production also pollutes communities surrounding vinyl manufacturing facilities by toxic exposure to the raw process chemicals, product intermediates, and production waste.

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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Famalette:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

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Thank you.

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Michael Schade
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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
R. Lawrence Mongomery, Chairman and CEO  
Kohl’s Corporation  
N56 W17000 Ridgewood Dr.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  

June 12, 2008  

Dear Mr. Mongomery:  

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
Terry J. Lundgren, Chairman, President, and CEO  
Macy’s, Inc.  
7 W. 7th St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  

June 12, 2008  

Dear Mr. Lundgren:  

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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Ullman:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

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We urge you to strengthen your company’s commitment to safe products by phasing out PVC shower curtains and packaging with safer, PVC-free products such as EVA plastic, nylon, organic cotton, polyester, and PEVA plastic.

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9 Murray Street, Suite 300
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mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
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June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. DiNicola:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell,* investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

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Michael Schade
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Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Friedman:

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Michael Schade
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9 Murray Street, Suite 300
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June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Lampert:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, **Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell**, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Our new laboratory testing found:

- PVC shower curtains can release as many as 108 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. VOCs are chemicals that easily turn into gases and contaminate our air.
- Some of these chemicals cause developmental damage as well as damage to the liver and central nervous, respiratory, and reproductive systems. Some can cause cancer in animals; some are suspected or known to cause cancer in humans.
- The Environmental Protection Agency’s classifies 7 of the chemicals released as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.
- Some chemicals were found in the air 28 days after a PVC shower curtain was unwrapped and hung.
- The level of Total VOCs measured was over 16 times greater than the recommended guidelines for indoor air quality established by the U.S. Green Building Council and Washington State Indoor Air Quality Program, violating these guidelines for no less than seven days.
- PVC shower curtains contain high levels of phthalates. Some phthalates have been linked to reproductive problems including shorter pregnancy duration and premature breast development in girls, sperm damage and impaired reproductive development in males.
- PVC shower curtains contain organotins, which can affect the central nervous system, skin, liver, immune system and reproductive system.
- PVC shower curtains can contain one or more of these metals: lead, cadmium, mercury and/or chromium.

PVC plastic, as used in shower curtains and other products in the home, poses serious environmental and health threats during its production, use, and disposal. PVC production involves extremely hazardous chemicals as the building block for vinyl materials, vinyl chloride, causes a rare form of liver cancer as well as damage to the liver and central nervous system. Workers in the vinyl industry face continuing health hazards because of vinyl chloride exposure and the risk of accidents and explosions. PVC production also pollutes communities surrounding vinyl manufacturing facilities by toxic exposure to the raw process chemicals, product intermediates, and production waste.

Both manufacture and disposal of PVC lead to the formation of dioxins when vinyl is burned. Dioxins are a highly toxic group of chemicals that accumulate in our environment, in the food we
eat, and in our bodies. Dioxins cause cancer and can harm the immune and reproductive systems. PVC cannot be safely disposed of in municipal landfills either: toxic PVC additives leach out of the material into groundwater, and the danger of accidental landfill fires can contribute to further production of dioxins.

As detailed in our report, we now know that PVC shower curtains contribute significantly to indoor air pollution. The US EPA has ranked indoor air pollution 4th in cancer risk among the top 13 environmental problems analyzed and has also been ranked a major risk to human health by the World Health Organization and American Lung Association. Indoor concentrations of VOCs have been found to be greater than outdoor levels: one study found indoor levels up to ten times higher than those outdoors, even in locations with significant outdoor air pollution sources. Since people spend a large portion of time in their home, they may be exposed to harmful levels of chemicals released from PVC shower curtains, as well as other PVC consumer and building products.

In response to these and other concerns about the toxic life cycle of PVC, major retailers across the world, including IKEA and Marks & Spencer, are choosing to phase out 100% of their use of PVC in shower curtains. Many others, including Bed Bath & Beyond, JC Penney, Macys, Sears Holdings (Sears and Kmart), and Target, are joining the wave by improving the safety of their products by developing plans to offer more PVC-free options. In addition, dozens of other companies, including Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Nike, and Apple have reduced PVC in products and packaging in a wide variety of consumer products.

We urge you to strengthen your company’s commitment to safe products by phasing out PVC shower curtains and packaging with safer, PVC-free products such as EVA plastic, nylon, organic cotton, polyester, and PEVA plastic.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this pressing public health and consumer safety issue with your company. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please contact Mike Schade at (212) 964-3680 or mike@chej.org

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Schade
PVC Campaign Coordinator
Center for Health, Environment and Justice
9 Murray Street, Suite 300
New York, NY 10007-2223
mike@chej.org
Phone: (212) 964-3680
Fax: (212) 349-1366
June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Steinhafel:

We are writing to alert you to the results of our new study, *Volatile Vinyl – The New Shower Curtain’s Chemical Smell*, investigating the chemicals contained in and released from shower curtains made out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

Our new laboratory testing found:

- PVC shower curtains can release as many as 108 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. VOCs are chemicals that easily turn into gases and contaminate our air.
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- Some chemicals were found in the air 28 days after a PVC shower curtain was unwrapped and hung.
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- PVC shower curtains can contain one or more of these metals: lead, cadmium, mercury and/or chromium.

PVC plastic, as used in shower curtains and other products in the home, poses serious environmental and health threats during its production, use, and disposal. PVC production involves extremely hazardous chemicals as the building block for vinyl materials, vinyl chloride, causes a rare form of liver cancer as well as damage to the liver and central nervous system. Workers in the vinyl industry face continuing health hazards because of vinyl chloride exposure and the risk of accidents and explosions. PVC production also pollutes communities surrounding vinyl manufacturing facilities by toxic exposure to the raw process chemicals, product intermediates, and production waste.

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June 12, 2008

Dear Mr. Scott:

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Dear Mr. Lester:

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