



December 10, 2012

To the AASHE STARS review committee:

I am writing to verify the unique nature of Oregon State University's Sustainable Textiles Symposium held on May 14, 2012. As the Sustainability Director at Nau, I was a speaker at the Symposium.

Nau is a Portland, Oregon-based apparel company that infuses sustainability across all dimensions of our business, such as corporate giving, material selection, manufacturing and logistics, design aesthetics, product maintenance requirements, and product end of life. As well as my responsibilities within our Company, I also serve as the Chair of the Advisory Council to the Outdoor Industry Association Sustainability Working Group. Among our work is the authoring of the foundations of the HIGG Index for apparel and footwear, a Chemicals Management Framework by which brands, suppliers and retailers can understand how to manage the chemicals used in the manufacturing of consumer products. We collaborate with our sister organization in Europe as well as stakeholders across our supply chain. I have spoken and attended many sustainability conferences and I can verify that this Symposium put on by OSU was unique and valuable to those attending from across Industry and Academia.

I appreciate Oregon State University's role in exposing OSU students and the broader community to sustainability-related topics within the textile and apparel industry. I am not aware of a university within the United States that has sponsored a Sustainable Textiles Symposium that addressed such a broad range of topics, including sustainable fiber development, waterless dye technology, organic certification, challenges associated with sourcing sustainable materials and production, manufacturer/retailer sustainability-focused programs for consumers, and the Federal Trade Commission's role in regulating green marketing claims. Not only is it important that students who plan careers in the textile and apparel industry are exposed to such topics, but it is also important that all consumers are educated on such a resource intensive product so they may better understand the impact of their own consumption.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Bainbridge', written over a horizontal line.

Jamie Bainbridge