

October 16, 2008

Bob Nardelli, Chair and CEO
Chrysler LLC

Via fax: 248-512-8748

Dear Mr. Nardelli:

I'm writing on behalf of PETA and our more than 2 million members and supporters worldwide about your memo (attached) in which you inform Chrysler factory employees that they must wear leather footwear to work or face being sent home without pay. **Upon further reflection, I hope that you will retract this memo immediately and allow workers to wear shoes or boots made from any of the rugged, safe leather alternatives that exist today. If something heavy falls on a work boot, it is the steel-tip in the boot—not the leather—that protects the worker.**

This requirement is likely to offend many, and it may even discriminate against employees whose religious beliefs forbid or discourage the wearing of leather such as Jains, many Hindus and Buddhists, and others. The requirement also discriminates against people who reject leather for ethical reasons, including the animal suffering and environmental destruction caused by leather production.

In India—where much of the world's leather originates—cows are often marched hundreds of miles to slaughter through dust and extreme heat without food or water. Cows who collapse from exhaustion often have chili peppers smeared into their eyes, and handlers sometimes break the animals' tails in an effort to keep them moving. Crammed into extremely crowded illegal transport trucks, many are trampled to death and/or gored by other animals during the ride.

In the U.S., animals whose skin is turned into leather suffer all the horrors of factory farming—including extreme crowding and confinement, deprivation, castration, branding, tail-docking, and dehorning—without any painkillers. Animals are often still conscious when they are hung upside-down by their legs, and many are still alive when their hooves are cut off.

Leather production also devastates the environment: It requires a staggering 13 to 16 gallons of water to produce just 1 kilogram of leather as well as 130 different chemicals—including formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, and various oils, dyes, and finishes. Tannery runoff contains large amounts of pollutants, such as salt, lime sludge, sulfides, and acids.

Moreover, leather production contributes to climate change. In addition to the massive amount of energy used at leather-production facilities, a recent United Nations report determined that animal agriculture generates more greenhouses-gas emissions than all the cars, trucks, planes, ships, and trains in the world *combined*. And because an animal's skin accounts for much of his or her commercial value, leather can never be considered a "byproduct."

I would love the opportunity to discuss this with you and provide information about the many durable leather alternatives available today. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Matt Prescott, Director
Corporate Affairs



PETA

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THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS