

ORIGINAL

Cowboy Cleaners

11759 Blanco Road • San Antonio, Texas 78216 • (210) 341-6084



FEBRUARY 24, 1999

SECRETARY
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
6th AND PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

DEAR SIR OR MADAM:

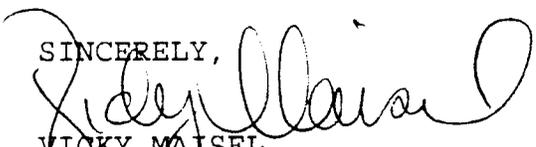
I UNDERSTAND THAT CHANGES ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CARE LABEL LAW. I DO BELIEVE CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE. THE CONSUMER DESERVES ALL THE INFORMATION ON HOW THEIR GARMENTS CAN BE CLEANED.

THE CURRENT CARE LABEL LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE A MANUFACTURER TO TEST MATERIALS TO HAVE A "REASONABLE BASIS" FOR THE CARE INFORMATION ON THE LABEL. TESTING SHOULD BE MANDATORY. IT IS A NOMINAL COST. INTERNATIONAL FABRICARE INSTITUTION'S TESTING FOR A FULL SET OF CARE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$300.00. FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS THIS WOULD ADD FEW PENNIES TO AT THE MOST A FEW DOLLARS PER GARMENT.

BUD KONHEIM, CEO OF APPAREL MANUFACTURER NICOLE MILLER, SAID IN USA TODAY " IF THERE IS THE SLIGHTEST QUESTION THAT.. THE DYE MIGHT BLEED ONTO OTHER ITEMS IN THE WASH... THE ANSWER IS JUST SLAP A DRYCLEAN LABEL ON IT. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU CAN BLAME IT ON THE DRYCLEANERS." MR. KONHEIM BELIEVES HE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE TO MAKE A PRODUCT THAT CAN LAST OR CAN REASONABLY BE MAINTAINED. IF HIS PRODUCT IS DEFECTIVE -HE BELIEVES SOME ONE ELSE SHOULD TAKE THE BLAME. I HOPE HE DOES NOT EXTEND THAT BELIEF TO FLAME RETARDANT MATERIALS - LET'S JUST BLAME THE BABIES, OR AUTOMOBILES - IT MUST BE THE MECHANIC. MR. KONHEIM AND OTHER MANUFACTURERS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE AND DISTRIBUTE DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS.

A FAIR CARE LABEL FOR CONSUMERS, DRYCLEANERS AND REPUTABLE MANUFACTURERS WOULD BE ONE WITH MANDATORY MATERIAL TESTING AND ALL POSSIBLE CARE METHODS LISTED ON LABEL. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CURRENTLY USES THE GINETEX SYMBOL SYSTEM. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A METHOD FAIR TO CONSUMERS, DRYCLEANERS, AND MANUFACTURERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY,


VICKY MAISEL
MARKETING DIRECTOR

CC: SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
SENATOR PHIL GRAMM
REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BONILLA
REPRESENTATIVE LAMAR SMITH
REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES GONZALEZ