



**Public Comment
May 5, 2023**

1. Zachary Shepherd, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees,

My name is Zachary Shepherd, and I am second year law student here at Penn State Law, University Park campus. I am also the current president of the Labor & Employment Law Society at Penn State Law.

I am horrified to hear about the illegal coercion at a factory which contracts with Nike, Penn State's primary apparel producer. As the Worker Rights Consortium informed the administration in early 2021, workers at the Hong Seng Knitting factory in Bangkok were illegally coerced into giving up \$600,000 in wages during the pandemic. These workers were largely migrant workers from Myanmar, often subject to violence and harassment in Thailand. According to the WRC, when one worker attempted to notify Thai labor authorities, the factory owners filed an unsubstantiated police complaint, forcing the worker and his family to flee the country.

Respect and honor for the dignity of every person is one of Penn State's core six values. The coercion, exploitation, and persecution of migrant workers in our name are unequivocally violations of that fundamental principle.

I strongly encourage the Board to intervene and make it clear to Nike: Penn State will not contract with corporations that exploit workers and violate their rights. I ask that Penn State suspend the Nike contract until the workers at Hong Seng receive their due.

Best regards,
Zack Shepherd

2. Michael Takacs, Current Student

Submitted written comment.

I am a current graduate student in the School of International Affairs, and I am urging Penn State to take action against the Hong Seng labor rights violations that the administration is well aware of.

I am appalled to know about the illegal coercion at a factory which contracts with Nike, Penn State's primary apparel producer. As the Worker Rights Consortium informed the administration in early 2021, workers at the Hong Seng Knitting factory in Bangkok were illegally coerced into giving up a total of \$600,000 in wages during the pandemic.

Respect and honor for the dignity of every person is one of Penn State's core six values. The coercion, exploitation, and persecution of migrant workers in our name are unequivocally violations of that fundamental principle, especially when the administration is actively aware of the indignities that have occurred.

I strongly encourage the Board to intervene and make it clear to Nike: Penn State will not contract with corporations that exploit workers and violate their rights. I ask that Penn State suspend the Nike contract until the workers at Hong Seng receive their due.

3. Jeremy Sanville, Current Student
Submitted written comment.

Dear Penn State Trustees

My name is Jeremy Sanville and I am a graduating senior from Allentown, I am a graduating Schreyer Scholar as well. I am horrified to hear about the illegal coercion at a factory which contracts with Nike, Penn State's primary apparel producer. As the Worker Rights Consortium informed the administration in early 2021, workers at the Hong Seng Knitting factory in Bangkok were illegally coerced into giving up \$600,000 in wages during the pandemic. These workers were largely migrant workers from Myanmar, often subject to violence and harassment in Thailand. According to the WRC, when one worker attempted to notify Thai labor authorities, the factory owners filed an unsubstantiated police complaint, forcing the worker and his family to flee the country. Respect and honor for the dignity of every person is one of Penn State's core six values. The coercion, exploitation, and persecution of migrant workers in our name are unequivocally violations of the that fundamental principle. I strongly encourage the Board to intervene and make it clear to Nike: Penn State will not contract with corporations that exploit workers and violate their rights. I ask that Penn State suspend the the Nike contract until the workers at Hong Seng receive their due.