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A UNIVERSITY BILL MANDATING THE SALE OF FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Whereas, more than 500 University of Houston students, faculty, staff members and alumni have signed a petition circulated since August 2006 supporting the sale of 100% fair trade coffee at the UH Central Campus;

Whereas, the price of fair trade certified coffee has not increased the cost of coffee to students since it has been offered on campus since April 2006 therefore it need not go up;

Whereas, many coffee farmers receive market payments for their coffee which are less than the costs of production, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt; and Fair Trade works to correct these imbalances by guaranteeing a minimum wage for the small producers' harvest, as well as encouraging the cultivation of coffee without the use of pesticides;

Whereas, with the profit generated from receiving a fair wage, coffee growers are able to invest in such areas as health, education and environmental protection;

Whereas, more than 500,000 farmers in 20 countries produce and sell more than 32 million pounds of coffee each year through the Fair Trade network;

Whereas, the University consumes a large amount of coffee and, as a purchaser of goods and services, UH vendors have a responsibility to ensure that funds are spent in a manner consistent with decent ethical and labor standards, including assuring that workers are paid a living wage, and purchasing goods made in the fairest manner when possible;

Whereas, a change towards sustainable coffee will reflect positively on the University and its students, by setting an example in the community and furthering education about responsible consumer choices;

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the 44th Student Government Association at the University of Houston:

Section 1: The UH Food Service Vendor Aramark and its successors shall sell only Fair Trade certified coffee that is certified by independent certifying agencies.

Section 2: The UH Food Service Vendor shall purchase this coffee for all UH uses, by the start of Fall 2007 semester and in perpetuity.