



Joint Statement between UNFI and Walden Asset Management:

“United Natural Foods benefits from the capital provided by our investors as well as their advice and feedback. Many of our investors share our values as a company committed to high quality products, to organic foods, Fair Trade products, and our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

United Natural Foods strives to act as socially responsible business acting with integrity with consumers, employees, investors, suppliers and other stakeholders. This last year, one of our shareowners, Walden Asset Management, a socially responsible investment management firm, which integrates environmental, social and governance issues into their investment decisions, presented a shareholder resolution to us. The resolution was co-sponsored by other investors including the Tides Foundation based in California and the Christopher Reynolds Foundation of New York City.

The resolution, which appears in the proxy, urges United Natural Foods to develop a Code of Conduct for our suppliers dealing with labor rights, to establish a monitoring process and to report to our investors on how it is implemented. While we were sympathetic to the thrust of this proposal, we were not sure how to implement it in a reasonable and cost-efficient manner with the wide range of suppliers we use.

However, our goal is also to insure that products we sell are made responsibly with respect for the environment. Our company leadership discussed the issues related to the proposal and with Walden.

United Natural Foods has decided that it will develop a Code of Conduct and an implementation plan to be phased in over time, keeping investors and other stakeholders informed as the process unfolds.

Management notes that many companies are developing Codes or guiding principles as well as plans to put these values into effect. In addition, many Codes refer to environmental responsibility as well as labor issues.

We believe the development of such a Code for United Natural Foods protects our valuable brand and reputation as well as being the responsible thing to do.

While the resolution requesting this Code was not put to an official vote in light of our agreement with the sponsors, preliminary results indicated many of our investors support steps such as this by leadership companies such as ours.

Walden and the United Natural Foods management look forward to working together on these important issues during 2009.

*driven by nature*