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FENDER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION

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December 13, 2005

Pavel Leonidovich Ipatov, Governor of Saratov
Moskovskaya Str., 72, Saratov
410042 Russia

Dear Governor Ipatov:

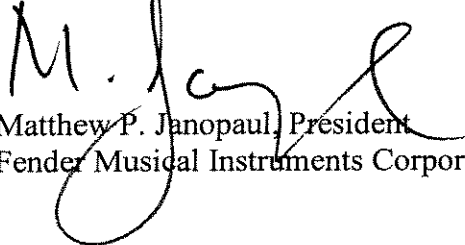
Since 1946, the Fender name has become synonymous with all things rock 'n' roll. Since that time, Fender has been the world's premier manufacturer of electric guitars and vacuum tube guitar amplifiers, which, to this day, rely on the very best components available. For the past 12 years, New Sensor Corporation has supplied most of the critical vacuum tubes we use in these amplifiers, and these tubes are made at their ExpoPUL factory in your city of Saratov.

We consider these tubes—including the 5881WXT, EL84, 12AX7WC, 12AT7 and 6V6—to be an essential part of our famed production. That's why we were alarmed to hear that ExpoPUL may be in jeopardy. I was forwarded an article published in last week's *Moscow Times*, mentioning how an outside real estate company wants to acquire the building. I do hope your office will intervene if Russian Business Estate makes good on their warning to cut off ExpoPUL's power supplies, which would cause an immediate halt in production.

Fender values ExpoPUL's tubes so much that we personally supported New Sensor president Mike Matthews when he told us of his interest in buying the factory seven years ago. Matthews, whose reputation in electronic music stretches back to 1968, has helped keep tube technology alive by continuing investments in Research & Development.

It would be a shame for these respected Russian-made products to die in the name of RBE's proposed "entertainment complex." The entire Fender community applauds your efforts in protecting the factory.

Kind regards,


Matthew P. Janopaul, President
Fender Musical Instruments Corporation

