



Pernod Ricard Americas

New York, November 17th, 2011

Dear Mayor Roach,

White Plains today is the home to a significant number of international corporations. Even more foreign companies are located in the surrounding communities not to mention the many more that are located in New York City, but whose employees live in White Plains. These companies are critical to the economic stability of White Plains and the entire county. They provide high value jobs to local residents while generating millions of dollars in tax revenues for the municipality.

Our Affiliate, Pernod Ricard USA, could just as easily have located in New Jersey or Connecticut, but we chose Westchester for one crucial reason: when we recruit executives from their home country and ask them to spend time managing operations in the U.S., we can offer them a highly attractive quality of life.

Westchester and White Plains offer wonderful culture, great open space, and, most importantly, excellent schools. While White Plains has great public schools, many families are intent on maintaining their children's studies toward the international or French baccalaureate. White Plains has a wonderful tradition of cultural diverse international schools that offer such programs. The French American School of NY (FASNY) is a perfect example of an institution that we seek to locate near. FASNY not only provides bi-lingual education; it also allows students, who are often here for 3-5 years to maintain their studies within the French Baccalaureate program. Additionally FASNY provides international families with an important sense of community.

I am heartened to hear that FASNY will be creating a unified campus in White Plains. I have no doubt that the school will give back to the White Plains community in ways both big and small. It has already shown its intentions by promising to create a 65-plus acre public Nature Preserve on the majority of its property.

White Plains has a well-deserved reputation as a welcoming home for international companies seeking to grow and thrive in the New York metro area. Supporting the relocation of FASNY will help solidify this reputation, while opposing the school could be interpreted as a sign that White Plains is less interested in supporting its strong international community. I hope this is not the case. You have been a good partner to Pernod Ricard and we look forward to continuing our mutually beneficial relationship.



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For the sake of White Plains's – and Westchester's – economic future, I strongly urge you to support FASNY's plans for a new school in White Plains.

Sincerely,

Thierry Pourchet
Vice President Finance
Pernod Ricard Americas

Cc: Westchester Business Council
Westchester Association