

Good morning Mr. Sanders and members of the Board of Directors. My name is Theda Clark Jessen. I hold one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine shares of Kimberly-Clark common stock. I am a descendant of one of the founders of Kimberly-Clark Corporation and I admit that it has taken some courage to attend this annual stockholders meeting today because I do not wish to embarrass or challenge a company which is so much a part of my family's heritage, and for which I have always felt such great pride and had so much interest in it's success.

I do have a specific reason for being here, and that is to state my growing concern regarding Kimberly-Clark's production of cigarette papers and tobacco-related products. In 1992, my husband and I were honored to be able to meet with you, Mr. Sanders, to discuss my concern at that time regarding the position of our Board on this subject. I also stand here to represent those whose addiction to tobacco products have led them to disease and death.

Today Kimberly-Clark is in a powerful position world-wide in the production of tobacco paper products. This is, however, a small percentage of its business, compared to all the widely-known and respected health-related, personal care and consumer paper products manufactured by the corporation. Therefore, I ask our Board to consider whether that small and profitable percent is worth the public's questioning of it's integrity and social responsibility?

Recent media attention from the Washington Post, to ABC's Day One exposes, and the New York Times Magazine's March 20th article on the tobacco industry are but a few examples of how Kimberly-Clark may increasingly be viewed in a less than flattering light, as significant scrutiny, including law suits, is focused on the tobacco industry and it's suppliers. With so much new evidence introduced in the last year regarding the epidemic of disease and death caused by cigarette smoking to both the smoker and those exposed to environmental tobacco smoke, society's attitude toward the tobacco industry has been changing rapidly. If not now, soon, the public will likely view the tobacco industry as no better than legal drug pushers who profit from those addicted to it's products. Perhaps members of our Board have seen the same public service billboards that I saw last year in Los Angeles. One said in bold letters: **SMOKERS ARE ADDICTS. TOBACCO COMPANIES ARE DRUG PUSHERS. SMOKING STINKS.** Another sign at a bus stop said: **ONLY THE TOBACCO COMPANIES WILL TELL YOU THAT INHALING 23 KNOWN CARCINOGENS IS "REFRESHING"**. These are unpleasant times for the tobacco industry, and I don't see any chance they will improve. The next step may be to restrict all sales of tobacco products by U.S. companies. If the FDA has it's way, this is a very real possibility. I must say, I hope it is. Three years ago, while talking to a friend whose family heritage is from another large paper company with world headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, I asked her what she thought about U.S. companies exporting tobacco products. She said simply, "why, that would be exporting death".

I urge our Board to consider the impact to Kimberly-Clark's bottom line and reputation that they have with the healthcare professionals and the hospital industry it serves. The corporation is doing such good deeds as being a sponsor for The Children's Miracle Network, generously donating to M.D. Anderson for cancer research, manufacturing high quality surgical masks, gowns and other hospital paper products, and at the same time supply tobacco related goods which are know to produce and aggravate multiple illnesses including death. Also, it is disturbing that the paper used in the manufacture of cigarettes is the same sold to those who make bibles.

I hope Kimberly-Clark will take the lead in their role as corporate citizens to end their position as suppliers of the tobacco industry. I thank you for the courtesy of listening to the difficult things I have said, and await our Board's further consideration of this issue.