



The Public Advocate for the City of New York

Improving Access to City Services

Betsy Gotbaum
Public Advocate

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James D. Sinegal
Chief Executive Officer
Costco Wholesale Corporation
999 Lake Drive
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

Dear Mr. Sinegal:

I trust you were pleased, as I was, by the highly positive tone of the news accounts regarding your decision to accept Food Stamps at your New York City warehouses. I mentioned your laudable action on my blog, The Public Advocate's Corner, and one "Heartened Citizen" wrote in to commend Costco and to say, "...I will certainly go out of my way to shop there."

As the New York City Public Advocate, I'm also writing about one matter of unfinished business. A constituent, and a Costco member, asked whether your decision included the Costco in Staten Island. As you know, the Staten Island Costco has been open since 1995.

But you didn't mention Staten Island in either of your prepared statements regarding Food Stamps at Costco warehouses in New York City, and as you know, Staten Island is one of the five boroughs of New York City.

And again, thank you for doing the right thing with regard to your warehouses in Brooklyn, Queens and the forthcoming store in Manhattan. Your earlier decision enhances Costco's fine reputation and serves as an exemplar of social and corporate responsibility. I wish Costco continued prosperity in New York City and beyond.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum

