



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Jeffrey Bezos
President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman
of the Board
Amazon.com, Inc.
410 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109-5210

Dear Mr. Bezos,

I am the U.S. Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The IWC adopted a global moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986, and 25 years later the moratorium remains in place. The U.S. views the IWC as the premiere international forum for whale conservation and management, and is strongly supportive of the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling. In addition, the U.S. is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which generally forbids international trade of virtually all large whale species.

I am writing out of concern regarding a report released last week by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Humane Society International (HSI), that posits that Amazon.com.jp had been selling whale and dolphin products on its web site. This contradicts statements from the Amazon.com website, which expressly prohibits the online sale of parts or products of whale and dolphin, as well as parts or products from federally endangered or threatened species. I also understand from press reports that Amazon.com, Inc. spokeswoman Mary Osako made a statement in response last week to the report that these items are not available for sale on Amazon.com.jp. I appreciate Amazon.com, Inc.'s quick response on this issue and commend your commitment to the protection of endangered wildlife.

I encourage Amazon.com, Inc. to (1) immediately enact a corporate wide policy explicitly prohibiting the sale of all parts or products of whale or dolphin on its subsidiary sites, including Amazon.com.jp, consistent with the policy on Amazon.com; and (2) implement a process to ensure that the corporate-wide ban on the sale of these products is implemented diligently. I would also appreciate any information you could provide regarding the manner in which Amazon.com, Inc. ensures adherence with its policies on the sale of prohibited items.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Medina".

Monica Medina

U.S. Commissioner to the
International Whaling Commission
Principal Deputy Under Secretary
for Oceans and Atmosphere

cc: Japanese Management Authority

