

# BARINGTON

BARINGTON CAPITAL GROUP

October 28, 1999

John C. Bikcen  
Senior Business Analyst  
Year 2000  
15201 Diamondback Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Year 2000 Certification Statement

To whom it may concern:

This letter represents Barington Capital Group's ("Barington") formal Year 2000 certification statement. Based on our inquiries, assessment, testing and remediation, to the best of our knowledge, Barington does not anticipate that the existence of a material Y2K problem in the firm's internal mission critical systems will impair the firm's ability to ensure prompt and accurate processing of securities transactions, including order entry, execution, comparison, allocation, clearance, and settlement of securities transactions, the maintenance of customer accounts, or the delivery of funds and securities.

As of October 14, 1999, Barington has assessed, tested, upgraded or replaced all internal systems both mission critical and non-mission critical, in order to be Y2K compliant. Final upgrades and testing took place from October 7th through October 14th. Remediation of all internal systems is now complete.

In its daily operations, Barington relies heavily on third-party suppliers, ranging from the utility companies to transaction processing partners, who may themselves have exposure to the Y2K problem. Barington has carefully coordinated with these third parties and they all claim to be either materially compliant or that they will be fully compliant by year-end 1999. Nevertheless, Barington cannot guarantee that these third party suppliers will be fully Y2K compliant.

Based on inquiries, and to the best of the my knowledge, the Firm has remediated its Year 2000 problems.

Sincerely,



James A. Mitarotonda  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Y2K Compliance SEC