

FARMER BROS. CO.

20333 SOUTH NORMANDIE AVENUE, TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90502 • (310) 787-5200

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Via FAX (212) 605-0325

July 17, 2003

Mr. Gary Lutin
Lutin & Company
575 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Lutin,

Your letter of July 10 misrepresents the July 7 item in The Deal. To ensure you understand the context of our position, we refer you to the full statement we issued to the public on April 30:

“In the course of providing non-public information to a significant shareholder as legally mandated under California law, the Company discussed with such shareholder the purposes for which it was seeking such information and whether the true purpose was a desire to sell their shares. The Company will continue to evaluate its strategic options, which it believes to be in the best interests of all shareholders.”

We do not intend to comment publicly on the latest rumors and misquotes that you are circulating. You are requested once again to ensure your future statements are accurate and well supported.

Sincerely,
FARMER BROS. CO.



John E. Simmons
Treasurer

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