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OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
THOMAS P. DINAPOLI
COMPTROLLER

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December 18, 2013

Mr. Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12336

Dear Mr. DiNapoli,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns regarding the 2014 Olympic Games. We appreciate the opportunity to hear from you regarding LGBT and human rights concerns in Russia in advance of the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games.

At GE, we believe the Olympic Movement and the global attention the Games attract have many positive influences beyond the sports arena. We have ongoing and substantive conversations with the IOC on a wide variety of topics, including the ones outlined in your letter. We will continue those conversations during the remainder of the year and as the Games commence.

We expect the IOC to uphold human rights in every aspect of the Olympic Games. We believe the IOC will endeavor to do just that. However, we do not believe that it is our role as an Olympic sponsor to influence the policies of sovereign governments. Social and political issues among nations should be resolved by governments and their people through that nation's political process.

As a global company operating in more than 160 countries, we work across diverse laws and cultures. We understand how the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights sets a pathway for business entities like GE to operate globally in a way that respects human rights. No matter which country we operate in, we try to make a difference – consistent with our express support for the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. We do this through the products and services that we offer and by the way we interact in the community and with our employees.

We believe that a wide variety of cultural and individual experiences help GE innovate and deliver products and services that respond to the needs of citizens throughout the globe. Internally, we work to create an inclusive workplace where all employees, regardless of sexual orientation (including in Russia), gender, race, religion or any other factor, have the opportunity to reach their full potential and contribute to the progress of the industries and communities we support. In fact we are proud of the recognition we received this week from the Human Rights Campaign as scoring a perfect 100 on the Corporate Equality Index and listed as a Best Place to work.

We remain open to having a constructive dialogue about the concerns you have raised with you and other stakeholders who seek to sustain the spirit and integrity of the Olympic Movement.

Thank you.

Deborah A. Elam