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Assembly California Legislature



IRA RUSKIN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY
AND TOXIC MATERIALS
BANKING AND FINANCE
HIGHER EDUCATION
CHAIR, SELECT COMMITTEE
ON NANOTECHNOLOGY AND
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

September 13, 2005

Mr. Mark Plumbly
The Tan Group
3630 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Dear Mr. Plumbly,

I am writing to you on behalf of Clark Kepler and the people of the Twenty-First Assembly District, on a matter with which you are of course extremely familiar. Today, it is harder than ever for the small businesses that form the cornerstone of our community to succeed. I share the conviction of my constituents that independent bookstores are an indispensable, intellectual resource to our community.

Kepler's Books represents more than fifty years of tradition and is an institution in our community. Kepler's has been more than a bookstore by serving as a haven for ideas in tumultuous times and by providing a nurturing environment for young minds. The permanent loss of Kepler's Books would truly be a cultural blow to our community. It is an irreplaceable resource, not just to the people of Menlo Park, but to the entire Peninsula. We need to keep it alive.

Currently, Clark Kepler is in the process of developing and evaluating a new business plan to succeed in the future. Kepler's Books has been a strong brand attracting people to the Menlo Center Plaza, benefiting all the surrounding businesses. It is part of the community that makes this area such a desirable place to live and work.

I understand that you must be governed by sound business decisions, and I urge you to consider all workable solutions to preserve this valuable business. The community and I will certainly recognize and appreciate your contribution in doing everything that must be done to allow this vitally important business to re-open. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you during this process.

Sincerely,

IRA RUSKIN

Assemblymember, 21st District



S. Joseph Simitian
California State Senate

September 13, 2005

Mr. Mark Plumbley
The Tan Group
3630 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Dear Mr. Plumbley:

Independent bookstores are the locally owned, locally operated enterprises that give a community its character. They are more than just stores. They are venues for the free expression of ideas in an engaged community. For the past fifty years, Kepler's has been such a place.

Kepler's is a community institution, a place that deserves to be preserved. It's a treasure trove for anyone who wants to be informed, educated or transported by the world of books. Kepler's is not only an important part of Menlo Park's history, but also the history of the Bay Area.

I understand that Clark Kepler is working with your company to help ensure a future home for Kepler's. I hope you will consider all avenues to come to a successful outcome for Kepler's and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Simitian".

S. Joseph Simitian
State Senator, Eleventh District