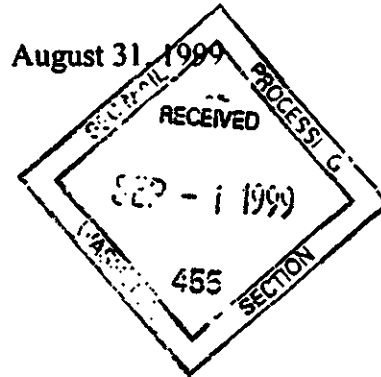


BARINGTON
BARINGTON CAPITAL GROUP

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
RECEIVED

SEP 01 1999



Division of Market Regulation
Attention: Y2K Compliance
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20549

DIVISION OF MARKET REGULATION

RE: SEC Y2K Certification Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

Barington Capital Group ("Barington") is in the process of completing its Year 2000 remediation. We began our Year 2000 project in late 1998 and developed a plan that had all Year 2000 remediation work including testing and contingency planning completed by August 15, 1999. Due to the fact that we changed our corporate mission and significantly reduced our retail business and resources levels, our remediation project was delayed. In late April 1999, our retail operation was sold Josephthal & Co. Only one retail broker remained on staff to effectuate a smooth transition. That broker left Barington on August 27, 1999. At this point we are negotiating with several parties to transfer the remaining accounts left at Barington. It is anticipated that most, if not all accounts, will be transferred prior to November 15th, 1999.

Barington plans on completing the necessary testing during September and October of all mission critical systems. We are in the process of hiring a contractor to assist us in completing the testing of our mission critical software and hardware. During September and October we will also be completing and testing our contingency plans. Barington expects to complete the remediation of all mission critical systems and should be operationally capable by October 31, 1999.

Barington does not anticipate that there will be any year 2000 problems in mission critical systems that will impair its ability to fully operate. We fully expect all Year 2000 readiness activities to be completed and tested by the November 15 deadline.

Sincerely,

James A. Mitarotonda
Chief Executive Officer