

To our valued customers,

There's an email circulating as well as some resulting media coverage that advises consumers to "use or lose" gift cards from 29 retailers because their stores are closing. This email contains inaccurate information. We do not plan to close all Talbots and J. Jill brand stores and there is absolutely no concern in buying a gift card from either brand this holiday season.

It is our policy not to comment on rumors but this one is potentially damaging to the relationship we have with our loyal customers, so we feel it's important to clarify the facts.

Our Company currently operates a total of 595 Talbots locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, and 283 J. Jill locations nationwide, as well as robust online and catalog divisions for each brand. Both Talbots and J. Jill opened new stores in 2008 and will continue to add new locations in 2009.

We hope this addresses any concerns regarding this inaccurate email, and we look forward to serving you this holiday season.

Trudy F. Sullivan
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Talbots, Inc.