

Model Resolution:

To Join the State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium

Ending Taxpayer Support for Sweatshops

WHEREAS, sweatshop conditions in apparel and other industries around the world and in the United States are well documented;

WHEREAS, workplace abuses cause untold human suffering for workers and their families across the globe;

WHEREAS, taxpayers may believe that ethical consumption requires that States do not purchase goods from sweatshops;

WHEREAS, States, acting as any other consumer in the marketplace, may lawfully choose to buy goods that are not made in sweatshops;

NOW THEREFORE, I, _____, Governor of the State of _____ do hereby commit my State to participate in the formation of a State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium that will pool resources for investigations and monitoring of supplier factories and coordinate the implementation and enforcement of sweatfree procurement standards based on the following key principles:

- All companies in the supply chain producing the goods sold to the State are responsible for ensuring that the workers producing those goods do not work under sweatshop conditions
- Vendors must commit to a Code of Conduct with strong protections for workers in supplier factories, requiring adherence to international standards of workplace fairness and safety and non-poverty wages. Vendors must publicly disclose the locations and working conditions in supplier factories.
- Factory investigations will be primarily complaint-based with the goal of rectifying Code of Conduct violations. An independent monitor, which is neither owned nor controlled in whole or in part by the industry to be monitored and does not derive any revenue from this industry, will have full control of the investigatory process, working in partnership with organizations, situated in the local factory community, that have demonstrated commitment to the human rights and basic needs of workers.
- Working conditions generally improve when workers have a meaningful right to freedom of association, because it is workers who have the greatest incentive and opportunity to monitor working conditions on a day-to-day basis.
- Code of Conduct compliance requires fair purchasing terms between companies and factories, because the product price and requirements for volume and turnaround time shape the conditions in which factories strive for compliance. The Consortium will develop mechanisms to ensure that supplier factories receive stable and sufficient orders at a fair price. In return, factories will have to maintain Code of Conduct compliance and be open to inspections by an independent monitor.
- The Consortium will begin work in the apparel sector but will consider expanding its scope to other industries where sweatshops are of concern.

- Consortium affiliation will be open to all public entities (cities, counties, states, school districts) that adopt a Code of Conduct with strong protections for workers in supplier factories; require vendors to publicly disclose names, addresses and working conditions of supplier factories; pay annual dues, which will be mutually determined by Consortium members; and, as soon as contractually possible, require vendors to commit to fair purchasing with their suppliers.
- The governing board of the Consortium will include government representatives, who will constitute the majority, and advocates and experts committed to the enforcement of worker rights.
- In order to maintain its independence, the Consortium will not accept any funding from the industries to be monitored.

I designate _____ as my lead staff person to help with the formation of a State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium. This person can be contacted as follows (email): _____

I agree that other members of the Consortium may publish and broadcast and otherwise communicate my name and the name of my State as an active provisional member of this Consortium, yet only within the confines of the commitments above.

This resolution may be revoked at any time by the signatory party by written communication to the Division of Purchases, State of Maine.

Gubernatorial signature

Date

Return to:

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