

Resolution No. 8**SWEATSHOP FREE POLICIES**

Submitted by UNITE HERE Local 2484:

WHEREAS, each year state and local governments spend millions of dollars contracting with the private sector to purchase, rent, launder or lease apparel, textile and footwear products; and

WHEREAS, too often these products and services are provided by vendors and contractors who operate sweatshops which pay below-subsistence wages, force employees to work excessively long working hours, allow unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, and repress the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively; and

WHEREAS, government procurement can be used to leverage purchasing power in support of "sweatfree" supplier factories and improve conditions for those who work in sweatshops; and

WHEREAS, the states of California, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and 60 local governments (including the City of Madison, City and County of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public School District) have passed some form of *sweatshop free procurement policy* requiring contractors of apparel and textiles to adhere to certain guidelines, including basic international fair labor standards; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to spend tax dollars to support qualified, responsible and ethical contractors whenever purchasing goods or services from the private sector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that delegates to the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention held September 25 – 27, 2006, call upon the State of Wisconsin to join the nationwide movement to fight sweatshop labor by adopting a *sweatshop free procurement policy* for private sector contracts related to apparel, textiles and footwear; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the State of Wisconsin should coordinate with other states in this movement by joining a new initiative started by the Governor of Maine—the Governors' Coalition for Sweatfree Procurement and Worker Rights.

Final Action: Passed