

State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium Interim Steering Committee

May 20, 2008 4 PM – 5:30PM EDST

Present: Bama Athreya, Rini Chakraborty, Bjorn Claeson, Eric Dirnbach, Vicki Kaplan, Betty Lamoreau, Chip Gavin, Farshid Yazdi, Curtis Topper.

Minutes: Bjorn Claeson

April Minutes

Minutes were approved without corrections.

Updates

Curt Topper: Still to follow up with NASPO regarding cooperative contract.

Chip Gavin: Maine held inaugural meeting of citizens' advisory group. Agreed to tentative timeline to establish rules which will allow collecting of vendor fees: January 1, 2009.

Eric Dirnbach: Sweatfree legislation is on verge of being introduced in New York State.

Vicki Kaplan: Met with procurement directors for states of Ohio and Michigan. Public launch of campaigns in both states on July 1. Lucas County, Ohio, will be introducing a sweatfree bill on June 3rd and is expected to pass.

Betty Lamoreau: Received inquiry from state of Oregon's procurement director. They are considering a sweatfree Executive Order.

Bjorn Claeson: On July 1 SFC will release report on working conditions in uniform factories based on case studies of 10 factories worldwide producing for major uniform brands. The idea is to call attention to the problems in this industry just before the National Governors Association meeting in Philadelphia. We will do follow-up work with the brands to ensure that they engage with any factories where violations are found to correct problems. Some uniform workers will also testify at a Worker Rights Board hearing in Philadelphia, coinciding with the NGA meeting.

Steering Committee message to Governors

A possible letter from the Consortium interim Steering Committee to governors, describing the Consortium project, and encouraging their support for it was discussed. The group generally felt it was a good idea, but members need to see the letter before deciding whether or not to sign on.

Action: Bjorn and Curt will draft letter and send out to group for comments via email.

Next Meeting

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.