

State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium Interim Steering Committee

July 15, 2008 - 4 PM – 5:00PM EST

Present: Bjorn Claeson, Eric Dirnbach, Chip Gavin, Carmen Herrera, Betty Lamoreau, Curtis Topper, Farshid Yazdi.

Minutes: Eric Dirnbach

Review of June 2008 Meeting Minutes

- Approved.

Gov. Rendell Resolution

- July 11, 2008 – Gov. Rendell signed a new resolution on sweatfree procurement. Press release: “Governor Rendell Signs Declaration Against Government Spending on Sweatshop Goods”,
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=3053&PageID=431159&mode=2&contentid=http://pubcontent.state.pa.us/publishedcontent/publish/global/news_releases/governor_s_office/news_releases/governor_rendell_signs_declaration_against_government_spending_on_sweatshop_goods.html.

Report on the Worker Rights Board Hearing

- Bjorn reported on the Worker Rights Board Hearing on uniform production held July 12, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA. Jay Lansky represented Gov. Rendell at the hearing.
- Letter also received from Gov. Baldacci of Maine reaffirming his commitment which was read at the event.
- Also received a supportive letter from Gov. Doyle of Wisconsin.

NASPO Regional Meeting in Portsmouth, NH

- Sessions scheduled on sweatfree procurement.
- More progress being made on the NASPO cooperative contract and monitoring contract.

PA Transition

- Curtis is transitioning out of his current position. Jeff Mandel, Chief Procurement Officer for PA, will be taking up the sweatfree procurement work in August.

Gov. Baldacci’s Announcement

- Gov Baldacci has reaffirmed his commitment to sweatfree procurement.

- Working Group has been meeting. Vendor fee may be implemented by January 1, 2009.

Uniform Industry Report

- Bjorn updated the group about the recent release of the SweatFree Communities uniform industry report, “*Subsidizing Sweatshops*”, which documents sweatshop labor conditions in numerous factories in multiple countries.
- There was significant press coverage of the report.
- Several of the companies mentioned in the report have contacted SFC, including Blauer Manufacturing. They stated that they no longer use the factory highlighted in the report. The report was revised to reflect this, and SFC is drafting a letter to Blauer regarding this.
- Maine and Los Angeles reported that they have been contacted by several companies about the report.
- The report and the press coverage can be found at <http://www.sweatfree.org/subsidizing>.

Sweatfree Consortium and NASPO Relationship

- Portland has a question regarding the role of NASPO solicitations and how this would relate to the SweatFree Consortium.
- It is clear to all that the Consortium would provide administration, supervision, standard-setting, oversight and advocacy for sweatfree requirements and that NASPO would provide coordination for the cooperative purchasing. The independent monitor would work with NASPO, the Consortium, and the individual Consortium members. We will issue a revised memo clarifying this.

Consortium Meeting

- Eric suggested that we think about another Consortium meeting to follow-up on the Harrisburg meeting of March 2007. This could serve as a founding Consortium meeting if we are ready at that point.
- Chip suggested that we should be closer to our goal, perhaps 50%, of \$100 million in procurement before having the meeting.
- Bjorn pointed out that it is difficult to know who is committed at this point since there are many cities and states that have expressed support for this cooperative effort without yet joining the Consortium. A meeting would likely draw all of these entities as well as others. Those who have declared support total approximately \$30 million in apparel procurement at this point.

Next Call

- August 19, 2008 at 4pm.