

Writing a Letter to the Editor
May 5, 2009

Tips for getting your LTE published:

1. 150 words max
2. Include your full contact info (name, address, phone, email)
3. Make a follow-up call to ensure your letter was received and ask when it will be published.
4. Pick one main point from the talking points below and stick with it.
5. Write in your own words and use a personal story or example where possible. You can also connect it to a timely issue, ie, "Just last month Americans mailed in our tax returns - do we know that our money is subsidizing sweatshops?" or "Last week was May Day..."

Every letter should include a version of the following goal:

- I support Governor Doyle acting this month to have the State of Wisconsin join the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium; OR
- I support Governor Doyle enacting a sweatshop-free purchasing policy for Wisconsin, and joining the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium.

A note about tone: Keep it positive - we know Wisconsin is on the right track and wants to do the right thing. We're just giving them the public political backing to make it happen.

Then pick one of the following. Be sure to write it in your own voice and use a personal example/story where possible:

- Our tax dollars are spent to buy products made in sweatshops.
 - o Every year, our state spends millions of our tax dollars to buy uniforms and other goods for our proud public employees, like police officers and firefighters.
 - o Unfortunately, most of this gear is made in sweatshops by workers forced to work long hours for poverty wages in inhumane conditions.
- A sweatshop-free policy is good economic policy.
 - o With the global economy reeling, now more than ever our tax dollars should-and can-support higher standards that level the playing field for U.S. workers and support good jobs around the world.
 - o A rising tide lifts all boats. Better conditions overseas means our workers are more competitive.
- Sweatshops exist in this country, too.
 - o Just last week, the state of New York raided a Manhattan sweatshop that was making NYPD uniforms. Workers were forced to work 80 hour weeks with no day off, and were told to lie to factory auditors.
- A sweatshop-free policy is a moral imperative.
 - o We cannot stand by and see our tax dollars funding the race to the bottom.
 - o Are our tax dollars funding the next Triangle Shirtwaist fire?
- Wisconsin has been a national leader in supporting middle class families and good jobs. This is an easy one.
 - o The Department of Administration has been an active partner in communicating its expectations with its vendors. Know it's time to put that into real policy.
- Wisconsin churches, faith leaders, elected officials, businesses, and labor unions support the SweatFree Wisconsin initiative.
 - o Learn more at www.sweatfree.org/wi