

SWEATSHOP FREE POLICYIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email (optional)

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✓ Commissioner Dan Gardier	800 NE Oregon St, Ste 1045, Portland 97232	
✓ Sen. Brad Avakian & Rep. Brad Witt	900 NE Court St, Salem 97301	
✓ Rev. Lynne Smouse Lopez	4532 NE 27th Ave. PDX 97211	
✓ James Hester	76005 E Buenside, Portland OR 97215	
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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Blackmer, Gary
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2007 3:57 PM
To: City Elected Officials; City Elected Officials Exec's
Cc: Meng, Linda; Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Resolution No. 1026 Sweatshop Free Procurement

It just came to my attention that Resolution No. 1026 (Sweatshop Free Procurement) on tomorrow's Council agenda appoints me or a designee to a "Policy Committee." I had not heard about that assignment.

Section 2-504 of the Charter allows for the auditor to perform "Other duties as may be assigned by the Council with the Auditor's consent". I do not consent to this assignment.

Gary Blackmer

Portland City Auditor
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204
503-823-4078
<http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor>

My Name is Richard Beetle I am the Business Manager of Laborers Local 483. I would like to speak in favor of the Sweat Free Resolution.

My members understand the connection between irresponsible free trade policies and the decline in wages and working conditions. Not only do we lose when our union employers close their doors and lay off workers to move jobs to low wage havens all across the globe, but we also face downward pressure on our wages when the products made in these low wage havens compete against products made by responsible unionized employers. It is this understanding of the relationship of goods made in sweat shops and the decline in their own standard of living that our members are increasingly making hard decisions about where they shop and what products they buy. They want to buy products that reflect their values and protect their living standards. They are increasingly choosing not to shop at Wal-Mart and not to buy products from countries that violate workers rights. They know that low prices sometimes comes at a high cost

I have 600 members working at the City of Portland. When we put on our uniforms at Bureau of Environmental Services, and when we wear city supplied hats and t-shirts at Portland Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Maintenance we need to be assured that these products are not produced under sweat shop conditions. By passing this Sweat Free Resolution we can be assured that our city shares our concern for workers dignity and respect. The City also needs to guarantee that this oversight committee that will recommend a code of conduct and The Sweat free procurement policy will be free of any conflict of interest by not allowing industry suppliers to have a seat at the table compromising the committees independence and core function of protecting workers rights.

By joining with the better than 170 different school districts, Cities, Counties and States, that have passed sweat free procurement policies, Portland, (a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and progressive pro- working family initiatives), will be able to guarantee that the uniforms and clothing that are provided to their public employees truly reflexes our city's values and principles.

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign Testimony in Support of the Sweatfree Resolution

Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Good morning. My name is Arthur Stamoulis. I am testifying today on behalf of the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, which is based here in Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for the proposed sweatfree resolution.

The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental and human rights organizations that advocates for trade policies that work to raise living standards, retain good jobs, protect the environment and safeguard public health. No one in our coalition wants taxpayer money going to support sweatshops.

I'll hazard to guess that very few Portlanders want their tax dollars going to support sweatshops — and that if given the opportunity, most would choose to purchase sweatfree goods as individual consumers, as well.

In my experience, when people learn about the exploitative, sweatshop working conditions in which garments are often produced, one of their first questions is, "Which brands should I boycott?" or "What stores should I buy from?"

The problem consumers face today is that it is often extremely difficult to learn under what conditions a particular item was produced. And while there are certainly exceptions, one brand is often just as guilty as the next in not only utilizing sweatshop labor, but withholding information from consumers. This is a problem the City of Portland can use its purchasing power to help address.

Sometimes people ask, "Well, can't I just buy products that are made in the USA?" The problem here is that fewer and fewer garments and other goods are made in this country any more, and even among those that do carry the "Made in the USA" label, large percentages are still produced in sweatshops that violate local labor laws—whether in the 50 states or in the U.S. territories.

A strong sweatfree ordinance will help address all of these issues.

Obviously, proper oversight and enforcement is critical. A feel-good measure that speaks out against sweatshops, but does little more, benefits nobody. By partnering with some of the more than 170 government bodies around the country that have already passed their own sweatfree rules, we can work together to develop best practices and enforcement mechanisms in a smart, cost-effective manner.

— over —

Just as importantly, by joining together with other large purchasers, Portland can help create significant new markets for sweatfree goods that, over time, may shape the options available to individual consumers and even the ways in which entire industries operate.

Portland is known throughout the world as a leader in sustainability, as a city that develops the programs and projects and policies that serve as models for others to follow. Clearly, the current global economy—which pits nation against nation and worker against worker in a race to the bottom—is not sustainable. By championing sweatfree purchasing, Portland can continue its role as a leader in sustainable development.

This resolution is an important first step, but a strong policy needs to be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. In moving forward, I encourage you to appoint a policy advisory body that is free from conflicts-of-interest. Companies seeking to sell uniforms and other goods to the city should be provided with opportunities to weigh in on how the final policy is implemented, but it is inappropriate for them to be tasked with helping to write the core sweatfree policy itself.

Thank you to Commissioner Adams for your work on this topic, and thank you all once again for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Arthur Stamoulis
Director

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign
310 SW 4th Ave #436
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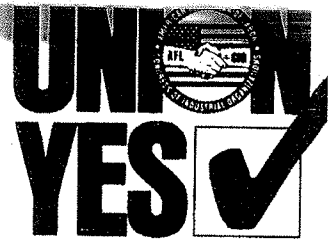
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Testimony of Tom Chamberlain, President, Oregon AFL-CIO

Sweatshop Resolution, August 29, 2007

Oregon voters statewide have twice reinforced their belief in fair wages for a hard day's work. In 1996 and again in 2004, Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted to raise the minimum wage to among the highest in our nation. In Multnomah County, the results were even better.

Clearly, fair pay for a hard day's work is an Oregon value.

Why, then, are our taxpayer dollars spent to effectively hire workers who toil for pennies an hour, and in conditions that we would never tolerate here at home? Is it OK because they live somewhere else? Is it OK because we can't see them? The fact is that we should not be funding the expansion of sweatshops anywhere. The exploitation of workers, simply because they live outside our state's borders, is a violation of a widely held, and twice affirmed, Oregon principle of worker fairness.

I commend Commissioners Adams, Leonard, Saltzman, Sten and Mayor Potter for taking up this very important issue today.

Growing Up in Portland, I thought that sweatshops were a relic of the past, an archaic way of doing business that gave our country the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire that horrified our nation when 165 workers – mostly young women – jumped to their deaths or otherwise perished in the 11th-story fire in New York. That fire was a terrible event that taught us a painful lesson: No worker should be put in danger because of greed. The grief and anger following that event gave our nation's union movement a massive shot in the arm, and worker safety laws were adopted, strengthened and enforced. Since that time, our nation's labor laws, technological advances and awareness of safety procedures have improved immensely. With some notable exceptions, American workplaces are safer than ever. But only when they are on our shores.

Cross an ocean, or visit certain American cities, and you get a different story. Many folks testifying today will relate stories of the horrors that tens of millions of working mothers, fathers and children face daily in sweat shops worldwide. Few of us in this room can even imagine the loss of dignity that comes with physical and verbal abuse at work, and being told when we can and can't use the bathroom or get a drink of water. And while many of us struggle with our monthly bills, few of us literally fear for the survival of our families.

But that's because we are in Oregon, and the rules are different here.

My point is that we must not go on looking the other way while "other" workers are abused. Every one of our tax dollars that is spent on a product made in a sweatshop is a violation of our own, deeply held principles. Further, a sweatshop purchase takes business away from a business owner who tries to do right by his or her workers. When we support sweatshops, we put better people out of business. When we support sweatshops, we hurt working families at home and across the globe. That is not an Oregon value.

The Oregon Fair Trade Coalition released a report last year that found that the global race to the bottom for wages has hit our state hard. Again, most of us in this room have not lost our jobs to flawed trade laws. But there are 68,000 fewer jobs in Oregon today because of trade. Imagine spending your whole life honing a skill in the manufacturing trades, and then learning one day that you have lost your job, and that someone far away will be doing it for far less than you could live on. You realize your skills aren't needed anymore and you have to start over like a kid out of high school. This scenario is not a sad "what if." It has been a tragic reality for tens of thousands of Oregon workers. That is one aspect of this fight that we must not overlook.

I am proud to be here before you today representing the 135,000 working men and women of the Oregon AFL-CIO. We are steelworkers, k-12 support staff in every county, nurses, electricians, and more. By joining together and bargaining for better wages and benefits, we earn better wages, health care and retirement benefits than we would alone.

We commend the Portland City Commissioners for hearing us today. I hope you will support the Sweatfree Procurement Resolution. Portland is the perfect city to stand up to this worldwide injustice. A few points we are looking for:

- Publicly accessible factory information that can be used for third-party verification.
- Independent monitoring by an independent consortium
- Sweatfree procurement policies that can create significant market demand for products and services made in humane conditions by workers who are paid living wages by ensuring fair purchasing practices
- A sweatfree code of conduct to be signed by all contractors, subcontractors and vendors which includes: a living wage, adjusted by labor markets, rights to assembly and collective bargaining; non-discrimination and a ban on child labor; safe working conditions.

In closing, I would like to say that I stand here today in solidarity with the other endorsers of the Sweatfree Portland coalition, including the following unions:

American Federation of Musicians Local 99

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 88

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 189

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 328
Carpenters Union Local 247
Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901
International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local Lodge 1005
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 5
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 23
Laborers' Local 483
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 82
Northwest Oregon Labor Council
Portland Fire Fighters Local 43
Portland Jobs with Justice
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555
UNITE HERE Local 6
UNITE HERE Western Regional Joint Board

Thank you for your time and leadership on this important issue.

jjs/ibew#48/aflcio

36527

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Rep Rosenbaum [Rosenbaum.Rep@state.or.us]

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2007 3:39 PM

To: VVALENVUELA@CI.PORTLAND.OR.US; KMOORE-LOVE@CI.PORTLAND.OR.US

Subject: Testimony for August 29th Council meeting RE: sweat shop ordinance

Rep Rosenbaum will not be able to attend in person, but would like to submit this written testimony. If you have any questions or issues with this transmission, please contact Regan Gray at 503-231-9970 or 503-781-8251

8/28/2007

DIANE ROSENBAUM
State Representative
DISTRICT 42



Speaker Pro Tempore
Chair:
Elections, Ethics & Rules Committee

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1125 SE Madison St, Suite 100B
Portland, OR 97214
503-231-9970

August 28, 2007

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you in support of the Sweat Free Procurement Policy. Such an ordinance will stop taxpayer subsidies of sweatshops--ensuring living wages and fair working conditions for those individuals who produce clothing and uniforms for City of Portland employees. I am proud to join the coalition of concerned citizens in asking for your support.

We, on the state and local level, need to ensure that the services taxpayers subsidize meet our community's moral code. This can be accomplished by creating high standards for the businesses that contract with various levels of government. At the state level, I have introduced and passed legislation that requires living wages and safe, non-intimidating workplaces in order to promote fairer standards for working people. This ordinance is an opportunity for the City of Portland to discourage the use of sweat-shops in the production of uniforms and clothing.

San Francisco and Los Angeles have already adopted sweat-free ordinances, including living wage standards and independent monitoring to ensure that government contractors are meeting those standards. You may also want to consider rights to assemble and collectively bargain, safe working conditions, non-discrimination and a ban on child labor.

Portland should join the 26 other U.S. cities with strong sweat-free ordinances. I look forward to working with you in the future to eliminate unfair labor practices on the state and local level.

Sincerely,

Diane Rosenbaum

Diane Rosenbaum
State Representative
House District 42