

Governor Rendell Signs Declaration Against Government Spending on Sweatshop Goods

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 11, 2008

Another Step to End Taxpayer Support of Sweatshops

HARRISBURG – Continuing his efforts to end taxpayer support of sweatshops, Governor Edward G. Rendell today said Pennsylvania will participate in a state and local government “sweatfree consortium.”

“Taxpayer funds should not be used to support sweatshops that profit from the sale of goods while workers are denied basic human rights,” Governor Rendell said. “State and local governments represent a major consumer block, by committing to stop the purchase of goods made in sweatshops we can drive companies to improve working conditions.”

Governor Rendell signed an executive order in 2004 barring commonwealth agencies from entering procurement contracts for apparel and laundry services with companies that put people to work in sweatshop conditions. The sweatfree procurement policy requires all vendors to certify that their products and services are produced consistent with sweatfree policies where workers are protected by laws and, at a minimum, core labor rights defined by the International Labor Organization.

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The Rendell administration is committed to creating a first-rate public education system, protecting our most vulnerable citizens and continuing economic investment to support our communities and businesses. To find out more about Governor Rendell's initiatives and to sign up for his weekly newsletter, visit www.governor.state.pa.us.