We have a moral obligation to ensure [the sweatshop] practice is not rewarded through state contracts and taxpayer dollars. That's why, along with Governors Baldacci and Corzine, we're encouraging other states to join us and send a clear message that the U.S. values hard-working employees, and expects workers to be treated and compensated fairly. ... By using our combined state procurement power, we can impart real change.

-- Governor Edward G. Rendell (Pennsylvania)
Public procurement

- State and city procurement: $400 billion/year
- Democratic decision making
- Public policy tool
  - “Green” procurement
  - Local economic development
  - Women and minority-owned businesses
  - Living wages and decent working conditions

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Apparel procurement

- States: $400 million/year
- Local governments: $12 billion/year
- States and cities in this room: $65 million/year

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Public procurement from sweatshops?

- Talking prohibited
- Two minutes max in the bathroom
- Illegal wage deductions

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Sweatfree cities and counties

- Albany, NY
- Alleghany, PA
- Boston, MA
- Cuyahoga, OH
- Durham, NC
- Los Angeles, CA
- Madison, WI
- Milwaukee, WI
- Olympia, WA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Providence, RI
- San Francisco, CA
- Toledo, OH
- and more...

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Sweatfree states

- California
- Illinois
- Maine
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Sweatfree schools

- Over 100 school districts in New York
- Nine Catholic School Boards in Ontario
- Newark and Buffalo Archdioceses

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
How many altogether?

- 6 states
- 11 counties
- 36 cities
- 117 public school districts
- 3 high schools
- 166 universities

Total: 339

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Coming soon to a town near you...

- Austin
- Berkeley
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missoula
- New York City
- Ohio
- Portland
- Vermont
- Washington

SweatFree Portland Campaign, February, 2007

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Towards high road competition

- Code of Conduct
  - Local labor law and regulations
  - ILO standards
  - Non-poverty wage
- Disclosure of factory locations and conditions
- Affidavit of compliance
- Cooperation with independent investigations
- Corrective action

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Good theory, but...

- How do we know?
- How do we investigate?
- How does a single city or state have an impact?
Calling for a Sweatfree Consortium

- Governors’ Coalition for Sweatfree Procurement and Worker Rights
  ~ Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

“There's power in numbers. ... If we team up with other states we'll have even more influence in the global marketplace. Workers around the world deserve any influence or leverage we can bring to the table.”
-- Governor John E. Baldacci, Maine

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Calling for a Sweatfree Consortium

- Mayor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco:

  By consolidating our purchasing power and coordinating enforcement, our cities can better assure that anti-sweatshop policies achieve their intent. ... our city is interested in organizing a consortium of public jurisdictions to advance sweatfree policies.

- City of Los Angeles:

  Explore the possibility of developing a consortium of governmental entities to allow for cost sharing of monitoring and enforcement activities by an independent monitor.

- City of Providence:

  The City shall also explore...develop[ing] a sweatfree consortium with other states, cities, school boards, or other public entities that allow for cost sharing of monitoring, and enforcement activities by a nonprofit independent monitor.

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Three key principles

- Public disclosure
- Independent investigations
- Fair purchasing

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Benefits to business

- Even playing field
- Uniform standards
- Stable markets

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Benefits to governments

- Economy of scale
- High quality products
- Happy tax payers

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Benefits to workers everywhere

- Better working conditions
- Job security
- Higher wages

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org
Towards a sweatfree world

Together we can do this.
Together we should do this.

- Governor John Baldacci

SweatFree Communities
www.sweatfree.org