



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

November 5, 2009

Dr. Bjorn Skorpen Claeson
Executive Director
SweatFree Communities
30 Blackstone Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Dr. Claeson:

I write to express my appreciation for SweatFree Communities, as it moves forward with the important and difficult task it has undertaken: to harness the power of public sector purchasing to rid the world of the scourge of sweatshop conditions in the apparel industry, under which too many men, women, and children still labor in today's world. I strongly support the work of SweatFree Communities, and believe that the SweatFree Purchasing Consortium that you have established in coalition with state and local governments will serve as a crucial tool in creating and maintaining standards of workplace fairness and safety in our global economy.

It is vital that states and local governments do their part to prevent a "race to the bottom," in which governments procure cheap merchandise on the backs of laborers toiling in sweatshop conditions. I know, further, that the important work of the Consortium cannot be successful without widespread participation.

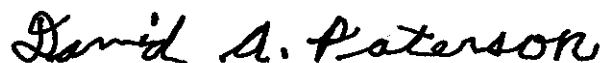
It is therefore my honor to inform you, in my capacity as Governor of the State of New York, that the State of New York is joining the SweatFree Purchasing Consortium, and will adhere to its requirements.

I have asked the Commissioners of Labor and General Services, working with my staff and in consultation with procurement officials of State agencies that purchase a significant volume of apparel, to develop a set of guidelines that, when implemented, will require apparel-purchasing agencies to restrict their purchases of clothing that originates in whole or in part from manufacturers who are violating labor standards. Those standards shall include provision for

gathering information on subcontractors, so as to facilitate any review of their practices as is necessary. In addition, I have asked that these Commissioners or their designees participate in the decision-making fora of the Consortium, to help to shape its decisions and achieve a successful result. The form and implementation of the New York guidelines will be coordinated with the work of the Consortium, so that the State and its agencies can have access to an appropriate mechanism for investigation of violations and monitoring of compliance.

I congratulate you for your work on this noble endeavor, and I and my staff look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

David A. Paterson

cc: Commissioner Patricia Smith
Commissioner John Egan