



1 page Urgent Fax: 1-717-772-8284

**Attention: Governor Edward Rendell
cc. Secretary of Policy, Donna Cooper**

March 2006

Dear Governor Rendell,

On October 16, 2004 members of the National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh spoke at Freedom Corner in Pittsburgh, PA. They told Pittsburghers that the factories where they produce clothing for export to the United States are unsafe and that they are forced to survive on below subsistence wages. On February 23 of this year a factory called KTS Garments collapsed and 100 workers were killed, many more were injured. In spite of constant threats of violence and plant closings, members of the National Garment Federation of Bangladesh are continuing to organize their labor union, demand justice for those that have been killed and injured, living wages, and a future worthy of human beings for the garment workers of Bangladesh. We should all be inspired by their courageous stand.

You demonstrated concern for workers in the global apparel industry in March of 2004 when you signed a Sweatshop Executive Order related to the procurement of apparel by the State of Pennsylvania. The requirements for transparency of factory locations, that manufactures allow independent investigators access to facilities, and the special emphasis on protecting workers' right to organize a labor union offer real opportunity to apparel industry workers all over the world to defend and advance themselves more effectively.

Please be advised that the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County are working closely with members of the Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Community Alliance to develop and implement similar legislation. Also be advised that Governor Baldacci of Maine is at the forefront of the struggle to implement legislation such as ours.

I respectfully ask that you join Governor Baldacci on a soon to be scheduled conference call being organized by Sweatfree Communities that will plan with other governors how they can combine efforts to monitor factories. I also ask that you help to arrange for the state's Department of General Services to meet with City of Pittsburgh (Chet Malesky) and Allegheny County procurement officers (Tomas Youngs) and the Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Community Alliance to discuss ways to maximize the impact of our sweatshop legislation.

Please advise me on what you are doing to enforce the PA Sweatshop Executive Order of March 2004 and your intentions on complying with the above requests.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(print name)

(signature)

City PA Zip

Organizational Affiliations

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Maine Governor John E. Baldacci's invitation for you to join him on a sweatshop conference call can be found at:

http://www.sweatfree.org/campaign_nws.shtml

State of PA and City of Pittsburgh sweatshop can be found at:

<http://www.sweatfree.org/policies.shtml>