

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 99-226

Opposing Multilateral Agreement on Investment provisions that unfairly restrict local control

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The World Trade Organization (WTO) will meet November 30 in Seattle to review and negotiate amendments and rules associated with existing international trade agreements including the Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI).
- b. International trade is broadly recognized as a critical element of the Portland Metropolitan area's successful economy benefiting citizens and businesses alike.
- c. Increased global cooperation and communication for fair trade has the potential to improve prospects for peace.
- d. Proposed WTO rules have the potential to invalidate Multnomah County's and other local governments' authority to develop policies, incentives and regulations that protect the environment, provide for economic development investment incentives, encourage minority and small business development, forbid discrimination in the workplace, and provide livable wages.
- e. The National Association of Counties passed a resolution that "urges the Administration not to agree to any provisions in the MAI draft text or similar provisions of any international agreement that would preempt local government's authority or ability to regulate activities within its jurisdiction."
- f. Organized labor, environmental, community economic development organizations, and faith-based organizations are opposing aspects of the MAI agreements under review by the WTO in Seattle.
- g. International trade agreement discussions have taken place with a noticeable absence of opportunity to comment from potentially impacted citizens, state and local governments.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To oppose terms in the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, especially provisions which undermine local governments' authority to pass laws regarding environmental protection, fair labor practices, living wages and local incentives to encourage business investments and supporting minority and small business development.
2. To acknowledge the efforts of citizens, environmental organizations, community economic development groups and unions which will be travelling to Seattle to advocate

for fair trade agreements which don't erode protections for the environment, human rights and fair labor standards and practices.

3. To forward this resolution to the Oregon State Congressional Delegation and the Governor of Oregon respectfully requesting them to advocate with the federal government through the Organization for Economic Development, to oppose provisions in the MAI which unfairly restrict local control.

Adopted this 16th day of November 1999.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By 

Sandra N. Duffy, Chief Assistant County Counsel