

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 03-147

Endorsing the Four Principles of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. That Multnomah County is home to a diverse immigrant and refugee population that has shared in the building of our nation and contributed to making America a land of ethnic and multicultural diversity;
- b. Immigrant workers have altered American life and their contributions were, and still are, significant to the economic growth of our community and our nation.
- c. Immigrant workers face higher levels of exploitation because many lack legal documentation and have little or no protection by government agencies in charge of enforcing labor laws.
- d. A coalition of labor, business, community organizations, churches, students, politicians, and immigrant workers joined forces for a nation-wide Immigrant Workers Freedom Bus Ride that called for reform of immigration and civil rights laws.
- e. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride was modeled after the Freedom Ride Bus Rides of the 1960's, with the focus being on immigrant workers rights, family reunification, access to citizenship and civil liberties.
- f. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, culminated in a mass demonstration in support of immigrant rights and legislative reform in Washington, D.C., and New York City in October of 2003. The ride was a powerful vehicle for mobilizing that national constituency.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Board endorses four basic principles in the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride agenda:

A road to citizenship with clearer steps to follow for immigrants who already work and pay taxes to gain a green card.

Family reunification, to help bring workers' family members still living in their native countries to the United States; there are decade-long waiting lists for some countries.

Workplace rights, regardless of immigration status, an issue of concern since a 2002 Supreme Court decision found that an immigrant worker with false documents could be denied back pay.

Civil rights and civil liberties, in response to immigrants being detained and deported in federal terrorism investigations.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of October 2003.



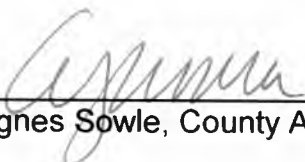
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Lisa Naito, Presiding Commissioner

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Agnes Sowle, County Attorney