

July 23, 2018
NW18-014

To: Northwest Regional Council
From: NW Legislative & Public Affairs Committee
Subject: **PRE-SUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: ASSOCIATION WITH OREGON FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN**

Background

SPEEA members are 100% in favor of trade. We make products the rest of the world want to buy. At the same time, we want a trade policy that builds our industrial base, and encourages employers to design and build products in the US so workers and communities can share in the gains from globalization.

SPEEA is an active member of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, which includes 65 other organizations in Washington State, including unions, environmental groups, faith, public health, social justice and farming groups and other sectors affected by trade.

Oregon has a similar coalition, called the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign (ORFTC). ORFTC is a grass-roots coalition that works on organizing, educating the public, and working with state and federal elected officials

Over the years, SPEEA staff and activists have worked with ORFTC, most recently when FAST Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership were being considered by Congress.

Senator Ron Wyden from Oregon is Ranking Member on the Finance Committee – the committee of jurisdiction for trade policy. Senator Merkley, Oregon's other senator is a leader for better trade policy. Senator Merkley was the featured speaker at an ORFTC dinner event. Representative DeFazio is a long-term champion for better trade policy. SPEEA members working in Gresham Oregon include constituents of elected officials in Oregon. We can increase our leverage on trade issues by working with ORFTC.

The Fair Trade Coalition in Washington helped move 3 House members to oppose TPP and advocate for a new approach to trade, where workers get our share of the gains from globalization. We hope we can also move Representative Blumenauer to support a better trade policy when NAFTA 2.0 come to Congress, since he is a leader on environmental protections.

SPEEA Organizational Planning Committee

The SPEEA Organizational Planning Committee is charged with investigating potential associations prior to council consideration. The Committee has investigated ORFTC including their activities, articles and effectiveness. An association with ORFTC will provide additional access to Oregon Legislators, increase the access of our members to the legislature and improve the influence of SPEEA in Oregon State and Federal legislative actions.

The SPEEA Organizational Planning Committee recommends association with ORFTC with an annual contribution of \$750.00.

NW L&PA Committee Recommendation

The NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommends passage of this motion.

Motion

It is moved that: **THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL APPROVES AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE OREGON FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN (ORFTC) WITH AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$750.00 AND REQUESTS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FUND THE FIRST YEAR DONATION.**

Pro: Our members in Oregon will have an additional opportunity to engage with their Congressional delegation to move trade policy in favor of workers and communities.

Con: Coalition work requires balancing of interests, so staff and members should sustain engagement with ORFTC, to make sure the work of the coalition is consistent with our interests.

<p>SPEEA NW Policy and Procedure V-A.4: Passage or adoption of a Northwest legislative or public issue requires a published ballot and the total affirmative vote must be an a majority of all Council Representatives including those not present or not voting, excluding Council Representatives working 50 statute air miles from the meeting and are unable to attend.</p>
