

YOUR STATE TAXES SUPPORT RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA!

Support State Selective Purchase Bills, H. 6098 and H. 5371

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- H. 6098 and H. 5371 would stop Massachusetts state agencies from buying goods and services from companies doing business in South Africa or Namibia.
- H. 6098 and H. 5371 have passed the Mass. House of Representatives. They need your renewed support **now** in the Senate.
- Please call or write postcards or letters saying something like this:

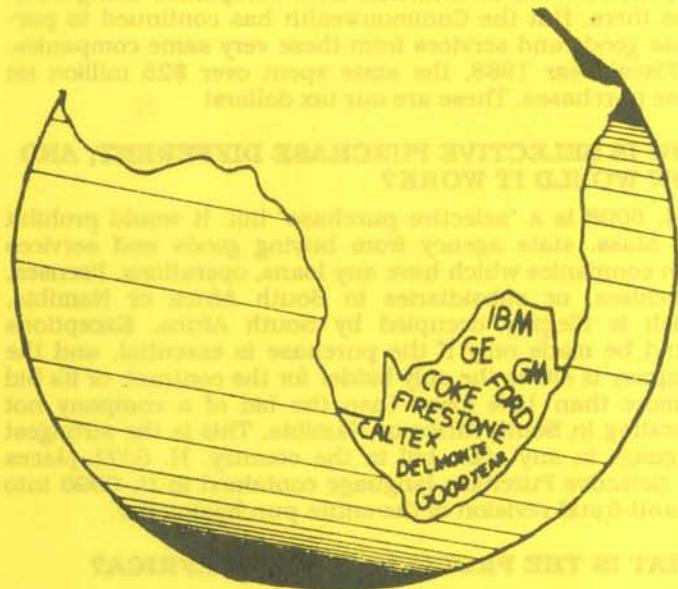
Dear _____

I am writing in support of H. 6098 and H. 5371, the Selective Purchase Bills, which would stop most Mass. contracts with companies doing business with South Africa or Namibia. I do not want my state taxes to go to any company that profits from South Africa's racist system. Please do everything you can to pass these bills, and let me know what actions you are taking.

Sincerely, (signature and address)

Please address your calls, postcards, or letters to:

1. Sen. Patricia McGovern, Chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133. (722-1481)
2. Senate President William Bulger
State House, Room 330
Boston, MA 02133. (722-1500)
3. Your own State Senator
State House, Room ???
Boston, MA 02133. (722-1455)



For more on the bill or on other actions you can take, please see the fact sheet on the back of this leaflet. The Coalition to End South African Purchases (CESAP) includes individuals and community, religious, and labor groups. Please consider coming to our monthly general meetings and/or working with one of CESAP's committees, such as Outreach, Lobbying, Media, Fundraising, Research, and Events. Please call or write us for more information on events or meeting times.

JOIN US—SUPPORT SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILLS, H. 6098 and H. 5371.

Partial list of endorsers: A. Philip Randolph Institute, ACTWU, AFGE 1164, AFSCME 93, AFSCME 1489, American Committee on Africa, American Friends Service Committee, Arlington St. Church, Backman Center for Social Justice, Boston Free South Africa Movement, Boston Mobilization for Survival, Boston TransAfrica, Cambridge Women's Center, Campaign for Change, Church of the United Community, CPPAX, Committee for Health Rights in South Africa, Cultural Resistance, District 65 UAW, Food Not Bombs, Fund for a Free South Africa, Gray Panthers, HERE Local 26, HRAAA, International Defense and Aid Fund, Jobs with Peace, Labor Committee for a Free South Africa, Lighthouse Investments, Mass. Black Legislative Caucus, Mass. Building and Trades Council, Mass. Council of Churches, Mass. Federation of Teachers, Mass. NOW, Mass. Teachers Association, Mass. Tenants Organization, National Association of Social Workers, Project Bread/Hunger Hotline, Rainbow Coalition, SEIU 285, 509 and 1475, Sisters of Notre Dame Peace and Justice Organization, Sisters of St. Joseph, Steelworkers 2431 and 8751, UE Local 262, Unitarian Universalist Assn., United Church of Christ Peace Ministry, Urban League.

COALITION TO END SOUTH AFRICAN PURCHASES (CESAP)

c/o FREESA, 25 West St., 5th fl., Boston, MA 02111. (617) 354-0008.

Selective Purchase Bill, H. 6098: Questions and Answers

HASN'T MASSACHUSETTS ALREADY DIVESTED?

In 1983, Massachusetts was one of the first states to strongly support freedom in South Africa by withdrawing its pension fund investments from companies doing business there. But the Commonwealth has continued to purchase goods and services from these very same companies. In Fiscal Year 1988, the state spent over \$25 million on these purchases. These are our tax dollars!

HOW IS SELECTIVE PURCHASE DIFFERENT, AND HOW WOULD IT WORK?

H. 6098 is a "selective purchase" bill. It would prohibit any Mass. state agency from buying goods and services from companies which have any loans, operations, licenses, franchises, or subsidiaries in South Africa or Namibia, which is illegally occupied by South Africa. Exceptions would be made only if the purchase is essential, and the company is either the only bidder for the contract, or its bid is more than 10% lower than the bid of a company not operating in South Africa or Namibia. This is the strongest language in any state bill in the country. H. 5371 places the Selective Purchase language contained in H. 6098 into an anti-fraud revision of the entire purchasing law.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"We want to keep South Africa white—keeping it white can only mean one thing, namely white domination, not leadership, not guidance, but control, supremacy." H. Verwoerd, a former Prime Minister of South Africa.

South Africa has been internationally condemned for its system of race rule, called **apartheid**. Black people in South Africa are 75% of the population, yet they cannot vote and have no political rights. They cannot even live where they choose. The white minority controls most of the land and most of the wealth. Black workers are paid only about 1/6 of what whites are paid.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH AFRICA NOW?

Black people in South Africa have opposed white rule from its beginning. But the white government has brutally suppressed all opposition. In June 1986, it declared a "State of Emergency" that allows the suspension of most legal rights and censorship of the press.

Because of this news blackout, images of the worsening repression in South Africa no longer appear on our TV screens. Since the State of Emergency was imposed, over 30,000 people have been detained in jail without charge. The white government has killed or wounded 1,300 black children and detained more than 11,000 children. Detainees have been beaten, raped, tortured, and maimed for life. In February 1988, the South African government declared illegal every major organization working to end apartheid non-violently. And South Africa bombs and invades black-ruled neighboring countries, killing many innocent civilians.

WILL THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL HELP?

Yes. Strong international economic pressure helped bring Rhodesia's white government to the negotiating table in 1977. South Africa's economy is very dependent on foreign investment and trade. US corporations sell the computers that record each person's racial classification; they

sell the trucks and jeeps that carry the police and soldiers to arrest and shoot children; they sell the gas that fuels those jeeps. US companies pay taxes to the South African government and are legally required to sell their goods to it.

Selective purchase bills encourage companies to pull out of South Africa, raising the price the white government pays to maintain apartheid. Recently, a Los Angeles engineering firm severed all ties with South Africa rather than lose its city contracts under LA's selective purchase law.

BUT DOESN'T ECONOMIC PRESSURE HURT BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"It was 15 years ago when I first got that explanation that sanctions would hurt blacks. I wish they had hurt me then so that my son wouldn't be hurting so much now." African father in his mid-30's (New York Times, April 2, 1985).

There is no way to put a kind face on apartheid. The only way to end the killings, the detentions, and the torture is to end apartheid. US companies provide fewer than 1% of all South African jobs. The entire anti-apartheid movement in South Africa—including the United Democratic Front (UDF, the largest legal political group), COSATU (the largest labor federation), the African National Congress (ANC), and religious leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu—has repeatedly called for economic pressure as an important strategy to push the white government to negotiate with black leaders for fundamental change.

WILL H. 6098 OR H. 5371 COST US MONEY OR CAUSE US PROBLEMS?

No. Two states and 33 cities, including New York, Los Angeles, and Boston, have passed selective purchase laws. According to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, "The city has not experienced any measurable increase in costs—or reduction in the quality of goods or services received—as a result of the ordinance." Both Ellen O'Connor, the Comptroller of Massachusetts, and Ric Murphy, the Mass. Purchasing Agent, have testified that Selective Purchase legislation can be implemented without major system changes or cost increases.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP PASS THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILLS?

A. Write and call your state senator TODAY urging him or her to support the bill and to visit Sen. Patricia McGovern, Chair of Senate Ways & Means, urging her to favorably recommend the bill to the full House. (See the suggested text on the reverse of this leaflet.) Get your friends to call.

B. Send a copy of the letter to Senate President Bulger and your own senator. Call them. (Phone numbers are on the reverse.)

C. Ask groups to endorse H. 6098 and H. 5371. Send copies of the endorsing letter to McGovern, Bulger, and the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

D. Arrange for group members to write individual letters to the same list. Set up a phone tree.

E. Set up tables in your community for people to write postcards. Or table with CESAP.

F. Contribute what you can for leaflets and publicity.

For more information on the bill or on what you can do, please call the Coalition to End South African Purchases.