

Port Townsend Food Co-op Boycott Policy

DRAFT

A boycott is a policy decision made by the Board to not carry a product or company's product line which is not compatible with our goals and mission statement. Such a decision will be based on the social, political, environmental, production and/or marketing practices of the manufacturer or supplier.

The purposes of a boycott are:

1. To educate people about the issues involved.
2. To apply economic leverage to the offending manufacturer or supplier.

Initiation of Proposal to Boycott

When a proposal to boycott a company or product(s) is made to the Board, the Board will determine if the proposal has merit. The proposal to boycott shall address the following questions:

1. Who is calling for the boycott?
2. What is/are the issue(s) being raised? Is the information upon which the boycott is based valid and verifiable? Do these issues violate our core values and mission statement?
3. What are the specific goals of the boycott? Are these goals consistent with our mission statement?

If the Board determines further action is warranted, a committee will investigate the issues.

Investigation of Concerns

The following steps will be initiated within 30 days of the Board determination to investigate:

1. Corroboration

The committee will research and corroborate the answers to the above questions presented during the initial proposal to the Board.

2. Store Analysis

There will be an analysis by the affected department staff of the impact and implications of honoring the boycott. This will include, but not be limited to, a list of the products we carry that would be affected, information on the availability of alternative products, financial impact of the boycott, any significant difficulties in honoring the boycott. [other language about specific financial information?]

3. Educational Posting

There will be an educational posting next to the product in question informing the members of the proposed boycott, clearly stating the issues involved. Educational information will also appear in the newsletter and other sources of information when possible.

4. Member-Owner Feedback

Member-owners will be encouraged to comment on the proposed boycott at the site of the educational posting, and through newsletter requests and by other means, where feasible.

Committee Review

Following the Investigation of Concerns, the committee will review all information collected and make a recommendation to the Board. This recommendation may be:

- to honor the boycott by removing all affected products
- to partially honor the boycott by removing only some of the affected products
- to not support the boycott, but continue to educate the members on the issues.

The committee will give the board an update at the meeting following the initial Board Determination to Investigate and will make a recommendation for action within 60 days of that initial meeting.

Boycott Actions

If a decision is made to boycott, the following steps will be initiated within 30 days of the decision:

1. Management will notify the manufacturer and supplier by letter.
2. All unopened stock will be returned, if possible. If not, the department may sell it off, with signage that informs customers why it is being discontinued. The products will not be carried as long as the boycott is in effect.
3. The Co-op will not accept special orders for the boycotted items.
4. Notice of products to be boycotted will be posted in prominent places in the store.

If a boycott is not initiated, the following steps will be taken:

1. Notice of the results will be posted in a prominent place in the store.
2. Educational posting of the issues involved will continue.

Ending Boycotts

The Board may end a boycott if information is received that the initial reasons for the boycott have been rectified. A boycott will be ended by the same procedure as it was initiated, beginning with a new investigation.