

## **A Resolution in Opposition to the Expansion of New Seasons Market in Seattle**

*Sponsored by Ben Lindsey*

Whereas, an out-of-state grocery chain called New Seasons Market is expanding its operations to the Puget Sound Region, including a planned store in Ballard and presents itself as a socially responsible natural foods company, on par with Seattle’s community-owned cooperative grocers and local family-operated grocery stores, but in fact, New Seasons Market is majority-owned by private equity investors through Endeavour Capital, a firm with more than \$2 billion under management;<sup>[i]</sup> and

Whereas, one of the investors in the Endeavour Capital funds which own New Seasons Market is the Vancouver-based Murdock Charitable Trust,<sup>i</sup> an organization which has contributed millions of dollars to organizations that actively undermine Northwest values of mutual respect, inclusiveness and tolerance;<sup>ii</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock Charitable Trust has contributed \$975,000 to the anti-LGBTQ hate group, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF);<sup>iii</sup> and

Whereas, the Southern Poverty Law Center recently designated the Murdock-funded ADF a hate group due to its role in supporting the criminalization of homosexuality in several countries and because it has “regularly demonized LGBT people, falsely linking them to pedophilia, calling them ‘evil’ and a threat to children and society...”;<sup>iv</sup> and

Whereas, the ADF provided the model legislation used by numerous states to enact anti-trans “bathroom bills” similar to Initiative 1552, which now threatens to repeal critical protections for transgender Washingtonians;<sup>v</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock Charitable Trust has contributed \$350,000 to Focus on the Family, an organization that has promoted gay conversion therapy,<sup>vi</sup> argued that “homosexuality is preventable and treatable,”<sup>vii</sup> and spent \$91,000 to defeat civil unions in Washington State;<sup>viii</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock Charitable Trust has contributed more than \$300,000 to each of two private Christian colleges in Oregon that openly discriminate against LGBTQ students;<sup>ix</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock Charitable Trust has contributed to the Portland Fellowship, an organization that tries to turn gay people straight with gay conversion therapy;<sup>x</sup> and

Whereas, Murdock Charitable Trust, has contributed over \$1.3 million to so-called “crisis pregnancy centers” across the Pacific Northwest,<sup>xi</sup> which NARAL Pro-Choice America says pose as health clinics while providing women with false medical information to dissuade them from having abortions;<sup>xii</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock Charitable Trust contributed \$240,000 to the Freedom Foundation in 2015, an organization whose staff have explicitly stated that their work is intended to undermine Democratic candidates by defunding public sector unions;<sup>xiii</sup> and

Whereas, staff of the Murdock -funded Freedom Foundation have publicly opposed the Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage arguing that it is a “threat to personal freedom”;<sup>xiv</sup> and

Whereas, the Murdock-funded hate group Alliance Defending Freedom has provided fellowship funding to employees and staff of the Murdock-funded Freedom Foundation;<sup>xv</sup> and

Whereas, the expansion of New Seasons Market into our community would help to generate profits for the Murdock Charitable Trust, which could use those profits to further support anti-LGBTQ, anti-women and anti-worker organizations; and

Whereas, Endeavour Capital is also an investor in Metropolitan Market, a locally-managed grocery chain whose workers benefit from the protections and benefits offered by a collective bargaining agreement; and

Whereas Endeavour Capital has apparently opted to expand New Seasons Market into Seattle, rather than invest in the growth of Metropolitan Market, a well-liked and locally-managed grocery chain; and

Whereas, our community has a wide variety of grocery shopping options at stores where hard-won collective bargaining agreements provide workers with decent wages, affordable quality health care, retirement security and a voice on the job; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 36th District Democrats opposes the entry of New Seasons Market into our Puget Sound communities while one of the company's investors continues to fund extremist anti-LGBTQ, anti-women and anti-worker groups; and be it further

Resolved that the 36th District Democrats pledges to support local grocery workers' in their effort to defend the economic gains and workplace rights that have been won through the collective bargaining process; and be it further

Resolved that the 36th District Democrats will provide copies of this resolution to New Seasons Market management, Endeavour Capital, our elected officials, and Centercal, the developer of the Ballard New Seasons site; and be it further

Resolved that the 36<sup>th</sup> District Democrats will publish this resolution on its website and in other online and print publications, as appropriate.

#### *Select Resources*

[Murdock Charitable Trust: Stop Funding Hate!](#)

Northwest Accountability Project (Accessed March 31, 2017).

[We Tracked Down the Lawyers Behind the Recent Wave of Anti-Trans Bathroom Bills](#)

Mother Jones (April 25, 2016)

[A Vancouver Charity is Funding a Group Backing North Carolina's Anti-Transgender "'Bathroom Bill'](#)

Willamette Week (April 11, 2016).

[Local foundation provides surprising support for right-wing campaign](#)

National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (March 16, 2016).

[Hate groups increase for second consecutive year as Trump electrifies radical right](#)

Southern Poverty Law Center (February 15, 2017).

---

<sup>i</sup> Murdock Trust is an investor in multiple Endeavour Capital funds, including V and VII, which together own 69% of New Seasons Market, according to newspaper reports. See: M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, IRS Form 990-PF (2015).

[http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990pf\\_pdf\\_archive/237/237456468/237456468\\_201512\\_990PF.pdf?\\_ga=1.136122417.1058983932.1488583893](http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990pf_pdf_archive/237/237456468/237456468_201512_990PF.pdf?_ga=1.136122417.1058983932.1488583893); Nigel Jaquiss, "A New Seasons Founder Refutes Brady's Claims," Willamette Week (March 7, 2012). <http://www.wweek.com/portland/article-18922-a-new-seasons-founder-refutes-bradys-claims.html>; Andy Giegerich, "With \$775M fund, Endeavour Capital exceeds expectations," Puget Sound Business Journal (March 25, 2015). [http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/morning\\_call/2015/01/with-775m-fund-endeavour-capital-exceeds.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/morning_call/2015/01/with-775m-fund-endeavour-capital-exceeds.html)

<sup>ii</sup> "Murdock Charitable Trust: Stop Funding Hate!" Northwest Accountability Project (Accessed March 31, 2017). <http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/petition/>

<sup>iii</sup> Rachel Monahan, "A Vancouver Charity is Funding a Group Backing North Carolina's Anti-Transgender 'Bathroom Bill'" Willamette Week (April 11, 2016). <http://www.wweek.com/news/2016/04/11/a-vancouver-charity-is-funding-a-group-backing-north-carolinas-anti-transgender-bathroom-bill/>

<sup>iv</sup> "Hate groups increase for second consecutive year as Trump electrifies radical right" Southern Poverty Law Center (February 15, 2017). <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2017/02/15/hate-groups-increase-second-consecutive-year-trump-electrifies-radical-right>

<sup>v</sup> Samantha Michaels, "We Tracked Down the Lawyers Behind the Recent Wave of Anti-Trans Bathroom Bills," Mother Jones (April 25, 2016). <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/04/alliance-defending-freedom-lobbies-anti-lgbt-bathroom-bills>; Home page of the No on I-552 campaign. (Accessed March 31, 2017). <http://www.washingtonwontdiscriminate.org/>

<sup>vi</sup> Jeff Johnston, "Leaving Homosexuality," Focus on the Family (Accessed March 31, 2017).

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/sexuality/leaving-homosexuality/leaving-homosexuality>

<sup>vii</sup> "10 Things You Should Know About Focus On The Family," Human Rights Campaign (Accessed March 31, 2017).

<http://www.hrc.org/resources/10-things-you-should-know-about-focus-on-the-family>

<sup>viii</sup> "10 Things You Should Know About Focus On The Family," Human Rights Campaign (Accessed March 31, 2017). <http://www.hrc.org/resources/10-things-you-should-know-about-focus-on-the-family>

<sup>ix</sup> "Murdock, Wells Fargo Linked to 'Absolute Worst' Oregon Campuses for LGBTQ Students," Northwest Accountability Project (August 31, 2016).

[http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/news/murdock\\_george\\_fox\\_multnomah/](http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/news/murdock_george_fox_multnomah/); Andrew Theen, "2 Oregon universities on list of 'absolute worst campuses' for LGBTQ student," The Oregonian (August 29, 2016). [http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2016/08/post\\_39.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2016/08/post_39.html)

<sup>x</sup> "Against LGBT Rights," Northwest Accountability Project (Accessed April 3, 2017).

<http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/facts/#against-lgbt-rights>

<sup>xi</sup> "Get the Facts: The Freedom Foundation's Extreme Right-Wing Agenda," Northwest Accountability Project (Accessed March 30, 2017). <http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/facts/#against-lgbt-rights>; Northwest Accountability Project, "Murdock Trust: Stop Funding Groups that are Implementing Trump's Agenda" (Leaflet, ND).

<sup>xii</sup> Marcie Bianco, "One Woman Went Undercover to Expose the Lie of 'Crisis Pregnancy Centers,'" Mic (September 22, 2016). <https://mic.com/articles/99290/one-woman-went-undercover-to-expose-the-lie-of-crisis-pregnancy-centers#.pEBVfKx5W>

<sup>xiii</sup> Dan Petegorsky, "Local foundation provides surprising support for right-wing campaign," National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (March 16, 2016). <https://www.ncrp.org/2016/03/local-foundation-provides-surprising-support-right-wing-campaign.html>

<sup>xiv</sup> Freedom Foundation *Freedom Daily* podcast (June 29, 2015). <http://www.podcastchart.com/podcasts/freedom-foundation-47e71245-0cd7-4c78-b9d2-6652812d3f6c/episodes/freedom-daily-june-29-2015-legalized-same-sex-marriage/pop>

<sup>xv</sup> "Against LGBT Rights," Northwest Accountability Project (Accessed April 3, 2017).

<http://nwaccountabilityproject.com/facts/#against-lgbt-rights>