

Resolution on Protecting Libraries under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Whereas, the function of libraries is to serve their local communities;

Whereas, GATS disciplines...

Whereas, after the 1995 Seattle WTO Ministerial Conference, the document stated, "No service...

Whereas, the WTO Dispute Settlement Panel has stated that the purpose of the "safeguarding the public interest" and "cultural diversity"

Whereas, the GATS defines government services as "those supplied on a non-commercial basis, not in competition with other providers"

Whereas, libraries should not be considered to be competing in competition with other service suppliers by engaging in fee-for-service arrangements in the same area of service provision as other service providers;

Whereas, foreign-owned companies providing national treatment could claim that subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies offering the same services as libraries are not deserving an exemption in order to treat both service providers equally;

Whereas, libraries which are included in the Agreement negotiate an exemption;

THEREFORE BE IT THE POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE "services provided in the exercise of governmental authority" and be exempted from the disciplines of the GATS agreement.

Motion of Hon. Mónica Alliero, Councilor, passed and Seconded.