

SUPPORTING A BALANCED GLOBAL ECONOMY

... FROM FREE TO FAIR TRADE

WHEREAS: A Nixon Administration relic known as Fast Track, a.k.a. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), has enabled the crafting of such destructive “free trade” agreements as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), which have led to massive job loss in the U.S., destabilized family farms, increased migration pressures in foreign nations, been used to challenge reasonable, non-discriminatory environmental, public health and labor laws, and is largely responsible for the ballooning U.S. trade deficit;

WHEREAS: Fast Track, the blueprint for building U.S. trade policies, has enabled corporate dominated globalization to flourish by literally locking labor unions, environmental interests, immigrants rights advocates, family farmers, and even Congress out of the negotiating room, creating a virtual “back room” where the White House and corporate trade advisors chart the course of U.S. trade policies, and the trajectory of globalization in general;

WHEREAS: Trade agreements and global economic policies dictated by a narrow set of interests has created an unbalanced global economy that threatens core Democratic Party values such as preserving a secure middle class, ensuring affordable health care and quality public education, promoting conservation, a secure homeland, and supporting respect for internationally recognized worker and human rights;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The California Democratic Party, while deeply committed to expanding trade and deepening our engagement in the global economy, calls on our Democratic Representatives and Senators to reject the Bush Administration’s request for Fast Track reauthorization, and to take advantage of the opportunity to correct the course of globalization and implement deep reforms to U.S. trade policy, including 1) a transparent process that includes direct, meaningful participation from our base constituencies and opportunities for public comment, 2) ensure reasonable power sharing between Congressional Representatives and the Executive Branch as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, 3) protect local and state rules or regulations from challenge under any provision of U.S. trade agreements (i.e. zoning regulations, prevailing wage laws, public health & environmental protections, procurement policies), 4) include International Labor Organization (ILO) and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) standards that are enforced equally with commercial provisions, and 5) allow Congress to certify by vote that an agreement has met all mandatory objectives before negotiations can be officially closed.