

Communications  
Workers of America  
AFL-CIO, CLC

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Jeffrey A. Rechenbach  
Executive Vice President



September 28, 2006

To: Members of the United States Senate

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 600,000 members who make up the Communications Workers of America, (CWA, AFL-CIO), I strongly urge you to vote against the Peru Free Trade Agreement. Not only is it the same anti-working family labor chapter that we have seen in every terrible trade agreement since the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), it also is a slap in the face to all workers.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) bungled yet another negotiation regarding the labor rights chapter. Peru offered to include core International Labor Organization (ILO) standards within the text of the Peru FTA. USTR and the Bush Administration backed Peru down on this offer that would have been a step forward in addressing massive labor rights problems. Once again, we have USTR and the administration ignoring the concerns of the United States Senate. USTR has not listened to either body of Congress and it is well past time for the Senate to stop the unilateral policies of USTR.

This is just another offshoring agreement with very little in the way of trade happening for the people of either country. Over 50 percent of Peruvians live in poverty and the purchasing power parity of an average Peruvian is a mere \$5,500 according to the CIA World Fact Book. The lack of labor protections for workers, even after Peru offered to live up to ILO standards, should make it crystal clear that this agreement isn't about selling Apple computers or Ford Festivas — it's about gaining access to low-wage labor pools and exploiting workers.

USTR has ignored workers' rights and the will of the Senate to correct even the worse forms of slave and child labor in this and past agreements. The United States Senate has a duty to show USTR that the Senate is an independent body of our government and will stand up when trampled on by USTR. The best way to do this is to stand up for workers and vote against the Peru FTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey A. Rechenbach'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jeffrey' being particularly prominent.

Jeffrey A. Rechenbach  
Executive Vice President

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**Jeffrey A. Rechenbach**  
Executive Vice President



September 28, 2006

To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

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