

Citizens Trade Campaign

working **together** for **social** and **environmental justice** in **trade policy**

Support the 2008 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act

June 4th, 2008

Dear Representative:

The affiliates of Citizens Trade Campaign ask you to join us in supporting the *2008 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act* being introduced by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine).

We are eager to support trade agreements that benefit the majority of U.S. workers, farmers, small businesses and consumers and that safeguard the environment while promoting equitable development in our trading partners. Unfortunately, pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) have not met these goals. The price we pay in job loss, downward pressure on wages, environmental damage, unsafe imports and other damage is far too great.

The TRADE Act shifts the debate towards discussing what elements comprise a new trade and globalization model that meets these goals. This landmark legislation requires a review of existing trade agreements, and a renegotiation of existing trade agreements based on that review. It sets terms of what must and must not be included in future trade agreements, and expresses the sense of the Congress that their role in trade policymaking should be strengthened.

Trade should be viewed as a means for achieving societal goals such as economic justice, human rights, healthy communities, and a sound environment. Agreements should reflect the views of the majority of the world's people on issues such as jobs, wages, the environment, human rights, food and consumer safety, access to essential services, and public health. The TRADE Act does this, marking out policy space for a more balanced way to expand trade. It marks out fair paths forward, explaining what we are for in a good agreement.

We hope you will join us in supporting this blueprint for better trade agreements. To sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office (kim.glas@mail.house.gov) or Chris Slevin in Sen. Brown's office (Chris.Slevin@brown.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

United Steelworkers of America

Friends of the Earth

National Farmers Union

Int. Brotherhood of Teamsters

**United Methodist General
Board of Church & Society**

**Americans for
Democratic Action**

Int. Brotherhood of Boilermakers

Nat'l Family Farm Coalition

UNITE HERE

**International Association of
Machinists & Aerospace Workers**

**International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades**

**International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers**

IATP Action

**Communications Workers
Of America**

**Public Citizen's Global
Trade Watch**

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Citizens Trade Campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental religious, family farm, and consumer organizations united in the pursuit of social and environmental justice in trade policy