

# Citizens Trade Campaign

## Please Cosponsor the 2009 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act Today

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our more than 12 million combined members, Citizens Trade Campaign asks you to sign on as an original cosponsor to the 2009 *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act*. First put forward in the 110th session by Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Mike Michaud, this bill had eighty House and Senate cosponsors last year, along with the institutional backing of [hundreds of diverse organizations](#) from across the country.

[The TRADE Act](#) sets forth a more balanced way to expand trade. It maps a fair path forward to establishing good trade agreements we can support. It serves the important function of shifting the debate towards what we are for with respect to a new model that can deliver the benefits of expanded trade while avoiding the damage caused by past trade pacts such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

There is nothing “free” about the high cost of the failed trade policies of the past. NAFTA, CAFTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have wrought great damage. The price paid in offshored jobs, downward pressure on wages, damages to our environment and loss of family farms is far too great. Fifteen years of failed trade policy has given expansive new rights to foreign corporations to challenge public health and environmental policies. It has flooded the United States with unsafe imported food and products. It has devastated developing nations by forcing millions of family farmers off of their land, creating poverty, despair and mass migration.

This initiative moves us out of the rut of repeatedly fighting against more-of-the-same trade pacts and beyond the divisiveness such fights invariably generate. It can rebuild consensus for trade expansion by providing a roadmap for what responsible agreements would include and the procedures that can help us achieve this new model.

That’s why we are asking you to cosponsor the 2009 TRADE Act today. To join on, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud’s office ( [kim.glas@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.glas@mail.house.gov) ).

Sincerely,

United Steelworkers

Friends of the Earth U.S.

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

TransAfrica Forum

International Association of  
Machinists & Aerospace Workers

Workers United

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