



Friends of the Earth

For immediate release: June 3, 2008

Statement from Dr. Brent Blackwelder, President of Friends of the Earth, on the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act

Friends of the Earth is calling on Members of Congress to cosponsor 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 urging our more than 100,000 members and supporters nationwide to contact their legislators.

Friends of the Earth supports well-crafted trade policies that protect the environment and workers, enhance public health and safety, foster strong democratic institutions and improve the quality of life worldwide. Unfortunately, our world's precious natural resources face serious threats from the current free trade model. Past trade pacts, based upon the failed NAFTA/CAFTA model have not worked, and actually encourage industry to relocate in pursuit of the least stringent environmental and social standards.

Trade agreements should support, rather than undermine, environmental protection. The TRADE Act encourages responsible behavior, providing a blueprint for a far better and more balanced way to conduct international trade.

Trade agreements should be viewed as means for achieving societal goals such as healthy communities and a sound environment. The TRADE Act will foster such agreements that can serve the needs of the majority of people on issues such as clean air and water, access to essential services, and public health.

We encourage Members of Congress to join us in supporting this legislation, and urge them each to cosponsor the TRADE Act today.

Friends of the Earth United States is part of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest global environmental advocacy network with member groups in 70 countries.

For more information contact: Brent Blackwelder 202-222-0727