



## Support the 2009 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act

June 22, 2009

**Dear Member of Congress:**

On behalf of our members across the country, we urge you to sign on as an original co-sponsor of the 2009 *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act*. First put forward in the 110<sup>th</sup> session by Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Mike Michaud, this bill had eighty Congressional colleagues sign on, along with the institutional backing of hundreds of diverse organizations from across the country.

Trade agreements should support, rather than undermine, environmental protection. The TRADE Act provides a blueprint for a far better and more balanced way to conduct international trade. 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, past trade pacts, based upon the failed NAFTA/CAFTA model have not worked and the price we've paid in offshoring of jobs, downward pressure on wages, damage to our environment and loss of family farms is far too great. Our world's precious natural resources face serious threats from the current free trade model, which encourages industry to relocate in pursuit of the least stringent environmental and social standards. Moreover, eighteen years of failed trade policy has even given broad, expansive new rights to foreign corporations to challenge American environmental and public health standards.

We all want to pass future trade agreements that advance our shared societal goals of economic justice, poverty alleviation, healthy communities, pollution reduction, human rights and a sound environment as well as benefit workers, farmers, small businesses and consumers worldwide.

We ask you to join your many colleagues who cosponsored the TRADE Act last session, and sign on to the 2009 TRADE Act today. To join as a cosponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office ([kim.glas@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.glas@mail.house.gov)) or Chris Slevin in Sen. Brown's office ([Chris.Slevin@brown.senate.gov](mailto:Chris.Slevin@brown.senate.gov)).

Sincerely,

Brent Blackwelder, President

Friends of the Earth US