

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

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June 15, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to urge your support for the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment (TRADE) Act of 2009. The TRADE Act establishes a new model for future trade pacts and a much-needed review of current trade agreements.

Our country for far too long has suffered under an old trade framework. These trade agreements have driven down wages, harmed the environment, and lowered safety standards. Furthermore, the result of these ill-negotiated agreements means a trading deficit with Canada of \$74.6 billion and with Mexico \$64.4 billion.

The TRADE Act would require a review by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) of major trade pacts; a list of provisions that must and must not be in all trade agreements; renegotiation of gaps in current pacts; and a mechanism to replace the so-called fast track process.

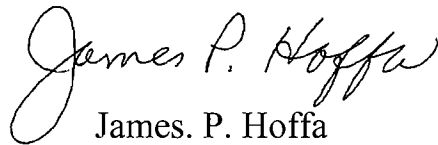
In particular, certain aspects of the damaging NAFTA-WTO framework must not be in future trade deals, such as new rights and privileges for foreign investors to promote offshoring. And, most importantly, under the TRADE Act, future deals cannot include bans on Buy American and anti-sweat shop or environmental procurement policies or service sector privatization and deregulation requirements.

All of our future trade agreements must have strong labor and environmental protections—the Trade Act of 2009 will ensure this. With more than two million job losses in 2008 and millions lost over the past decade in manufacturing alone, we have an economic and moral imperative

to create a new trade policy. Too many of our existing trade agreements have resulted in job losses and unsafe imported food and products. We must have trade deals that create jobs, protect the food supply, and ensure against unsafe imported products. To make our economy robust once again, our existing trade policy must be revamped.

I urge you to support workers and cosponsor the TRADE Act of 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James. P. Hoffa
General President