



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

June 24, 2009

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our more than 1.3 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club urges you to support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act of 2009.

This unprecedented piece of legislation will chart a new course for international trade, with the interests of workers, communities and the environment in mind. Unlike preceding agreements, the TRADE Act recognizes that robust economic development can only be sustained through stewardship of our natural resources and the promotion of human and worker rights.

Included in the TRADE Act are the following important provisions:

- Required adherence to all Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which the potential member country is already party
- Required adherence to International Labor Organization Convention core labor standards
- A prohibition against the weakening or failure to enforce domestic laws as a means of facilitating trade or investment
- The exclusion of investor rights that allow companies to attack common-sense environmental and public health measures in secret trade tribunals, as allowed under NAFTA.
- The establishment of new dispute resolution provisions guaranteeing public access to proceedings and basic due-process as protected by the Constitution

Central to the TRADE Act is a requirement that key trade agreements currently in force be reviewed and evaluated to ensure their advancement of specific development criteria including job creation and better wages, responsible resource consumption, and improved quality of life. Agreements failing to meet and advance these objectives must be renegotiated prior to the inception of negotiations with new trading partners.

International trade agreements have the potential to benefit communities and workers while equitably increasing the standard of living and health of our environment. In light of the current global recession, the need to rebalance our international trade policies is clear. Please join us in supporting the TRADE Act and its vision for cleaner, greener and fairer trade agreements. To sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office (kim.glas@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Carl Pope
Executive Director, Sierra Club