**Fair Trade Bird-Dogging Questions – Summer/Fall 2010**

**It’s time to Bird-dog!** Your congresspeople constantly attend town hall meetings in your hometown. All you have to do is show up to one, ask tough questions, and make them go on record with their positions on Fair Trade issues. Then share the answer with Global Trade Watch ([iploeser@citizen.org](mailto:iploeser@citizen.org)) so we can compile answers and hold them to their word if elected.

Here are a few suggested questions:

**All-Purpose:**
Apparently, President Obama is planning to take up the NAFTA-type trade deals leftover from President Bush. This is the same president who campaigned on a platform to renegotiate – not expand – NAFTA. Obama says he’ll resolve outstanding “issues”, but hasn’t specified if he’ll follow through on his campaign commitments to dump the NAFTA template and create a whole new fair trade model. *Will you oppose the Korea, Colombia and Panama trade deals unless they’re renegotiated in line with candidate Obama’s campaign commitments?*

**TRADE Act:**
Over 150 Members of Congress are supporting comprehensive trade reform legislation known as the TRADE Act - H.R. 3012/S. 2821 - introduced by Rep. Mike Michaud (ME) and Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH). The Trade Reform Accountability Development and Employment (TRADE) Act sets a high standard for future trade policy that makes sure good jobs, workers’ rights, environmental protections, agricultural sustainability, consumer safety, and democracy are the basis of a bold, forward-looking 21st century American trade policy. *Are you currently a cosponsor, or will you commit to cosponsoring the TRADE Act if you are elected?*

**Jobs and the Economy:**
Even though NAFTA and the continued expansion of NAFTA have led to the loss of over 5 million of good American manufacturing jobs and the virtual disappearance of the middle class, President Obama wants to move forward with another NAFTA deal with South Korea. With 10% unemployment, isn’t it time we say “NO” to more NAFTA? *If elected, will you oppose Bush’s NAFTA expansion to Korea?*

**Immigration:**
Immigration is a big issue right now, but no one really ever talks about why people are immigrating in the first place. I’ve heard that agricultural rules in NAFTA have led to over a million small farmers in Mexico losing their jobs, and this caused a huge increase in immigration to the U.S. Now the president is considering more NAFTA deals with Colombia, Panama, and Korea – with these very same rules. This will run hundreds of thousands more off their farms. I believe it’s hypocritical to talk about the immigration “problem”, but then to vote for trade deals that are both bad news for American workers, and are going to force people from other countries to try to come here. *Will you oppose Bush’s NAFTA expansions to Korea, Colombia and Panama?*

**Climate & Environment:**
President Bush negotiated NAFTA expansions with Korea, Colombia, and Panama which contain rules that would give oil, mining and logging companies the power to sue to challenge the stronger environmental laws that are desperately needed to save the Amazon rainforest and stop climate change. But despite this, the Obama administration is considering more NAFTA deals that leave these damaging rules in place. NAFTA expansion is a bad deal for American workers anyways, so I think these leftover FTAs sound doubly bad. *Will you oppose Bush’s NAFTA expansions to Korea, Colombia and Panama?*

**To Report Candidate Responses** contact James Ploeser - (202) 454-5111 or [iploeser@citizen.org](mailto:iploeser@citizen.org)

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