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Hansen praises Senate rejection of ‘Fast Track’
Urges Congress to listen to electorate

(Madison)—Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) praised the state Senate’s passage of Senate Resolution 8, legislation urging Congress to reject re-authorization of the president’s Trade Promotion Authority, better known as “Fast Track.”

The president’s current “Fast Track” authority expires on June 30. The authority allows the executive to negotiate trade agreements without Congressional amendment.

The AFL-CIO and the National Farmers Union have both publicly opposed re-authorization because of the impact of past trade deals on workers and farmers.

In support of the resolution, Hansen said, “At the time of NAFTA’s passage, many legislators could claim ignorance, but that’s no longer the case. We know what these deals look like, and unless we want more of the same we need to let Congress and the President know that we’ve had enough.”

According to trade watchdog group Public Citizen, corporate trade deals like NAFTA have effectively undermined federalism and state sovereignty by allowing foreign governments to sue states that are seen to be in violation of trade deals that they never agreed to.

Hansen went on to make the point that the new Congressional majority was elected to take action on behalf of average workers.

“The 2006 elections turned on issues of importance to working people. Foremost among these issues was trade,” said Hansen. “The workers and farmers of this state and nation can’t stand for these corporate trade deals any longer and they’ve made their opinions clear.”

The resolution passed the Senate with support from every Senate Democrat, along with the support of Republican Senators Ellis and Schultz.

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