

Do you remember this campaign graphic from the Obama campaign in Pennsylvania? Obama promoted Buy American policy in television and radio ads and even committed to renegotiating existing trade agreements to remove their limits on Buy American procurement. We thought you'd be interested in what President Obama had to say about "Buy America" policies on the campaign trail, especially given this Thursday he will be in Peoria visiting a plant operated by Caterpillar, the corporation leading the attack against Buy America provisions in the Stimulus Plan:



When asked in writing: "Do you support renegotiating trade agreements so they will allow us to use "Buy America" and "Buy Local" procurement policies? Obama answered "Yes" in a May 2008 Candidate Questionnaire from the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign. <http://www.citizen.org/documents/ORFairTradeCoalitionObama.pdf>

Obama ran paid TV attack ads in North Carolina against John McCain's opposition to Buy American provisions: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1KJwHvOhcs&eurl=http://citizen.typepad.com/eyesontrade/2009/02/mccain-amendments-to-prohibit-buy-america-crashes-and-burns.html>

Obama also ran a radio ad attacking John McCain's opposition to Buy America after McCain slammed Obama's European trip at a biker rally. At the rally, McCain said he would rather listen to the "roar of 50,000 Harleys" than the cheering of 200,000 Berliners. An Obama ad retorted that McCain was a phony for opposing a requirement that the government buy American-made motorbikes. **"But when it comes to his record," the announcer says, "American-made motorcycles like Harleys don't matter to John McCain. Back in Washington, McCain opposed the requirement that the government buy American-made motorcycles."** http://tpmelectioncentral.talkingpointsmemo.com/2008/08/obama_radio_ad_in_wisconsin.php

Finally, check out David Sirota's piece for lots of great details of Obama's commitments to voters to support Buy America policies: <http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/2009010530/will-obama-keep-his-buy-america-promise>

According to a recent poll, an overwhelming 86 percent of Americans support the Buy America provisions in the stimulus: http://www.americanmanufacturing.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/buy-american-steel-survey_final-tables.pdf

Buy America policies seem to play pretty well in Peoria.

Please let me know if you have any queries on this, or need any further info.

Thanks and cheers,
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