

Oregon Fair Trade Campaign

Candidate Questionnaire for Federal Office

Candidate Name: Barack Obama

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The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign is a statewide coalition of more than twenty labor, environmental and human rights organizations. Information about our coalition and its mission can be found on our website: www.oregonfairtrade.org.

We are interested in knowing what you think about a variety of issues surrounding the economy and trade. Answers to the following questions will be used to educate voters, highlight trade issues and create voter guides.

Please return your completed questionnaire to Arthur Stamoulis at the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign by emailing orftc@citizenstrade.org or calling (503) 736-9777.

Questions

Do you believe we need to change the way America conducts international trade, or do you believe the past model has worked for our country?

Please circle one: New way Same Way

Do you support eliminating the corporate tax breaks that act as an incentive for offshoring?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you support eliminating trade agreement provisions that grant foreign investors greater rights than U.S. residents or businesses?

Please circle one: Yes No

Comment: No foreign investor should ever have greater rights in the U.S. than an American.

Will you work to eliminate the importation of toxic toys into the United States?

Please circle one: Yes No

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Will you insist that future trade agreements require imported products, including toys and food, to meet U.S. safety standards?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you support renegotiating trade agreements so they will allow us to use “Buy America” and “Buy Local” procurement policies?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you believe NAFTA, overall, has done more to hurt or help the economy of United States?

Please circle one: Hurt Help

Comment: The process used to negotiate NAFTA, the text of the agreement itself having failed to include labor and environmental protections, and the inadequate consideration or transition assistance for those who would lose their jobs in both countries as a result of changing production patterns, all contributed to a failure of governance and that has indisputably hurt us.

Do you support reviewing and renegotiating NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you support reviewing and renegotiating CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Yes No

If the vote came up today, would you support the Colombia Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Yes No

If the vote came up today, would you support the Panama Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Yes No

If the vote came up today, would you support the South Korea Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Yes No

Will you require new trade agreements to include core ILO Conventions?

Please circle one: Yes No

Will you require new trade agreements to include enforceable environmental standards?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you support the enforcement of labor rights and environmental standards by the same mechanisms currently used to enforce commercial provisions in trade agreements?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you support permanently eliminating Fast Track trade promotion authority?

Please Circle One: Yes No

Comment: I oppose extending or renewing the current Fast Track authority as designed, but would support a redesigned process that provided for greater transparency, more democratic participation, and required labor and environmental provisions in the core of agreements.

Will you protect national security by monitoring foreign ownership of our infrastructure, such as railways, highways and ports, and foreign ownership of our resources, such as water and energy?

Please circle one: Yes No

Will you insist that American policies designed to reduce global warming pollution be prioritized over trade obligations, should such environmental policies ever come into conflict with existing trade pacts?

Please circle one: Yes No

Comment: The U.S. must lead efforts to combat climate change, but the only effective solution to this global problem will require the development and enforcement of an equitable global agreement that includes the participation of all our major trading partners. I will take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that policies designed to reduce global warming pollution are not constrained by trade agreements.

Do you support the right of developing countries to protect small farmers from agricultural product dumping?

Please Circle One: Yes No

Comment: All countries should be able to protect themselves from dumping.

Do you believe that international trade and investment are not mere ends unto themselves, but instead must be viewed as a means for achieving economic justice, human rights, healthy communities and a sound environment?

Please circle one: Yes No

Do you believe the rules that govern the economy must reflect the views and needs of ordinary people on issues such as jobs, wages, the environment, human rights, consumer safety, access to essential services and public health?

Please circle one: Yes No

These answers represent my beliefs and positions, and may be used by Oregon Fair Trade Campaign to keep members and the public informed about trade issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. De' or similar, written in a cursive style.

05/09/08

Signature

Date

Thank you for your willingness to complete this questionnaire. We would like to act as a source of information to you and your campaign on trade issues. Please do not hesitate to contact us.