

**H.R. 6180/S. 3083:**

# The TRADE Act

(Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act)

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## *TRADE Act Addresses American Public's Demand for Change During Presidential Campaign With a New Way Forward on Trade, Globalization*

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine) have worked with an array of labor, environmental, consumer, faith and family farm organizations to develop a bill that presents a progressive vision of what a good trade agreement must and must not include. This initiative sets forth **what we are for** – shutting down the bogus claim that we are anti-trade or have no alternative vision because we oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO) and similar damaging trade agreements.

### **What does the bill do?**

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The TRADE Act requires a **review** of existing trade pacts, including NAFTA, the WTO and other major pacts, and sets forth **what must and must not be included in future trade pacts**. It also provides for the **renegotiation** of existing trade agreements and describes the key elements of **a new trade negotiating and approval mechanism to replace Fast Track** that would enhance Congress' role in the formative aspects of agreements and promote future deals that could enjoy broad support among the American public.

The TRADE Act shifts the debate towards discussing **a new trade and globalization model**. It moves beyond repeatedly fighting against expansions of the old failed model and sets a marker for where discussion should start with a new Congress and president in 2009. One of our nation's greatest challenges is to create new rules for globalization that ensure economic security and the creation of quality jobs here, while offering opportunities for sustainable development in poor countries. Such rules would counter rising income inequality and the threats our current policies pose to national security, our shared global environment, public health and safety, and democratic accountability.

We must take action *now* to shape the future debate. The TRADE Act recognizes the Democratic presidential candidates' calls to renegotiate some pacts and brings Congress into this process.

### **The TRADE ACT includes:**

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**Section 2:** Lists of which trade agreements must be reviewed and definitions of the labor and environmental standards all agreements must contain.

**Section 3:** Requirements for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive review of existing major trade agreements by June 10, 2010, including economic outcomes in the U.S. and abroad and various security and social indicators. The TRADE Act also requires an analysis of how the current agreements measure up against the detailed description in the bill of what must and must not be included in future U.S. trade agreements.

**Section 4:** Labor, environment, food and product safety standards; national security exceptions; and trade remedy and federalism protections that must be included in all American trade pacts. Because NAFTA-model trade agreements extend far beyond traditional trade matters, this section also sets requirements with respect to public services, farm policy, investment, government procurement, and affordable medicines.

**Section 5:** Requirement for the president to submit renegotiation plans to remedy the gaps identified by the Comptroller General between our current pacts and the criteria for good agreements listed in section 4 *prior* to negotiating new agreements and prior to congressional consideration of pending agreements.

**Section 6:** Establishment of a committee comprised of the chairs and ranking members of each committee whose jurisdiction is implicated by today's expansive "trade" agreements to review the president's plan for renegotiations.

**Section 7:** A sense-of-the-Congress provision that sets out criteria for a new mechanism to replace the Fast Track negotiating process. To obtain agreements that benefit a wider array of interests, this new process includes Congress setting readiness criteria to select future negotiating partners; mandatory negotiating objectives based on the Section 4 criteria of what must be and must not be in future trade agreements; and the requirements that Congress must certify that the objectives were met, and then vote on an agreement *before* it can be signed. These criteria for a new trade negotiating mechanism to replace Fast Track have been supported in AFL-CIO, Change to Win and National Farmers Union resolutions.

## **TRADE Act support:**

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AFL-CIO	Sierra Club
Change to Win	National Farmers Union
Communications Workers of America (CWA)	National Family Farm Coalition
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME)	UNITE-HERE
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)	United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers	Friends of the Earth
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	Public Citizen
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)	Citizens Trade Campaign
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
United Steelworkers (USW)	Americans for Democratic Action

## **House Cosponsors:**

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1. Collin Peterson	21. Lynn Woolsey	41. Gwen Moore	61. Chris Carney
2. Nick Rahall	22. Peter DeFazio	42. Mike Doyle	62. Betty McCollum
3. John Conyers	23. Heath Shuler	43. Emmanuel Cleaver	63. Brian Higgins
4. Robert Brady	24. Bruce Braley	44. Tom Allen	64. Russ Carnahan
5. Bob Filner	25. Dave Loebsack	45. Stephen Lynch	65. Paul Kanjorski
6. John Murtha	26. John Hall	46. <i>Walter Jones</i>	66. James Oberstar
7. Alcee Hastings	27. Tim Ryan	47. Tammy Baldwin	67. Ciro Rodriguez
8. John Dingell	28. Nancy Boyda	48. Marcy Kaptur	68. Timothy Walz
9. Bart Gordon	29. Hank Johnson	49. Dennis Kucinich	69. Peter Welch
10. Rosa DeLauro	30. John Sarbanes	50. Carol Shea-Porter	70. Michael Capuano
11. Maurice Hinchey	31. Phil Hare	51. Mazie Hirono	71. James McGovern
12. Bill Delahunt	32. Betty Sutton	52. Michael Arcuri	72. Rush Holt
13. Jan Schakowsky	33. Jesse Jackson	53. Patrick Murphy	73. Sam Farr
14. Linda Sanchez	34. Dan Lipinski	54. Steve Kagen	74. Donna Edwards
15. Tim Holden	35. Keith Ellison	55. Charlie Wilson	
16. Mike Ross	36. Gene Green	56. Frank Pallone	<b>Sponsor:</b>
17. Peter Visclosky	37. Al Green	57. John Tierney	Michael Michaud
18. Danny Davis	38. Hilda Solis	58. Steven Rothman	
19. Dale Kildee	39. Ben Chandler	59. Barbara Lee	
20. Raul Grijalva	40. Carolyn Kilpatrick	60. Bart Stupak	

## **Senate Cosponsors:**

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1. Byron Dorgan	3. Bob Casey	5. Bernie Sanders	
2. Russ Feingold	4. Sheldon Whitehouse	6. Robert Byrd	<b>Sponsor:</b> Sherrod Brown

**For more information on the TRADE Act and to get involved:  
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