H.R. 6180/S. 3083:
The TRADE Act
(Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act)

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?

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:

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:

**AFL-CIO**
- Change to Win
- Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME)
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- United Steelworkers (USW)

**Sierra Club**
- National Farmers Union
- National Family Farm Coalition
- UNITE-HERE
- United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
- Friends of the Earth
- Public Citizen
- Citizens Trade Campaign
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Americans for Democratic Action

**House Cosponsors:**

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

**Sponsor:** Michael Michaud

**Senate Cosponsors:**

1. Byron Dorgan
2. Russ Feingold
3. Bob Casey
4. Sheldon Whitehouse
5. Bernie Sanders
6. Robert Byrd

**Sponsor:** Sherrod Brown

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