

The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign is a statewide coalition of more than twenty-five 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 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) 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 Michael Shannon at the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign by emailing m.shannon@oregonfairtrade.org or calling (503) 736-9777.

Questions

(1) Do you believe the rules that govern international trade should reflect the views and needs of working people on issues such as jobs, wages, the environment, human rights, consumer safety and access to medicine?

Across all of our policies, American workers and American jobs have to come first. And one area where we've gotten this balance wrong over the years is trade. Looking back over the past decades, as globalization picked up steam, there's no doubt that the benefits of trade have not been as widely enjoyed as many predicted. Corporations may have won, but many workers lost. They lost their jobs, and they lost their sense of purpose. Cheaper goods are no substitute for that. So America has to do better.

I've laid out a three-part test for any trade agreement to earn my support: it must (1) create American jobs, (2) raise wages, and (3) improve our national security. My approach to trade would be to establish and enforce fair rules so that our workers compete on a level playing field and countries don't race to the bottom on labor, the environment, and so much else. And we can bring others along in having higher labor, environmental, and other standards. As president I will ensure that our trade policy supports, rather than undermines, our climate policies, reducing emissions at home and encouraging climate action abroad. I'll make sure that trade agreements don't weaken American consumer safety standards and that imports comply with our rules. And I'll fight against any proposals that undermine worker rights.

(2) Do you believe we need to change the way America conducts international trade in comparison to existing trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

I have said for almost a decade that we need to renegotiate NAFTA, and I still believe that today. I've laid out a three-part test for any trade agreement to earn my support: it must (1) create

American jobs, (2) raise wages, and (3) improve our national security. I think we should also review all existing trade agreements with the same scrutiny.

(3) Do you believe Congress should approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as written?

I will say “no” to new trade agreements unless they create American jobs, raise wages, and improve our national security. After looking at the final terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, including the need to do more on currency manipulation and its weak rules of origin standard for what counts as a car that can get treaty benefits, I opposed the agreement because it did not meet my test. I also opposed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, the only multilateral trade deal that came to a vote while I was in the Senate.

(4) Do you believe the TPP’s “Rule of Origin” provisions are adequate to protecting American jobs?

No. The Trans-Pacific Partnership’s weak rules of origin provisions are one of my concerns about the TPP agreement.

(5) Do you believe the TPP’s investor-state dispute settlement provisions provide greater rights to corporations than to American citizens?

As I have said, I have 3 tests for any new trade agreements: do they (1) create American jobs, (2) raise wages, and (3) improve our national security? If the agreements won’t create good-paying jobs here at home and make our country stronger, I simply won’t support them. With respect to the flawed Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in TPP—which I wrote about in my book—I think we need to have a new paradigm for trade agreements that doesn’t give special rights to corporations that workers and NGOs don’t get.

(6) Do you believe the TPP should include binding safeguards against currency manipulation?

We need to crack down on foreign countries, like China, that cheat the rules. One of the reasons I opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement was my concern that we need to do more to address currency manipulation. I will take on foreign countries that keep their goods artificially cheap by manipulating their currencies, and expand our toolbox to include effective new remedies to respond, such as duties, tariffs, or other measures.

(7) Do you believe the TPP’s intellectual property provisions put the interests of pharmaceutical companies ahead of American citizens?

As I have said with respect to TPP, we need to make sure we're not putting the interests of drug companies ahead of patients and consumers. Those provisions in the final TPP agreement are one of the reasons I opposed it.

(8) Do you believe the TPP does enough to address labor and human rights abuses abroad?

I'm not interested in tinkering around the margins of our trade policy. I think we need a fundamental rethink of how we approach trade deals going forward. It is critical that we address labor protections and ensure that human rights are protected, as well as health, environmental, and consumer safety issues in any new trade agreements.

(9) Do you believe the TPP does enough to address climate change?

I do not. As president I will ensure that our trade policy supports, rather than undermines, our policies to reduce emissions at home and encourage climate action abroad. I know there is concern among environmental groups that the ISDS provisions in the TPP could be used to undermine U.S. efforts to cut carbon pollution and take action on climate change. And again, with respect to the flawed ISDS provisions in TPP, I believe we need to have a new paradigm for trade agreements that doesn't give special rights to corporations, but not to workers and NGOs.

(10) If elected President, would you oppose holding a vote on the TPP during the "lame duck" session before you take office?

I have said I oppose the TPP agreement – and that means before and after the election.