

News Advisory

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State Coalition Listed Here

Green Bay Town Hall Meeting to Focus on Outsourcing *Forum to Shed Light on Overseas Outsourcing as a Key Battleground Issue*

Green Bay, WI – With the election just ten weeks away, voters will soon have a choice to make, and the outsourcing of Wisconsin jobs will play a key role in these decisions. From March 2001 to January 2008, Wisconsin lost over 75,000 manufacturing jobs. Since 2003, at least a dozen Green Bay area companies -- mostly in the paper industry -- lost at least 1200 Northeastern Wisconsin jobs due to outsourcing. Economists predict 3.3 million more jobs will be outsourced overseas during the next decade, and Wisconsin -- a key manufacturing state -- will be one of the areas hit the hardest.

This town hall forum is raising the level of debate on this issue that matters to Wisconsin voters. The group will host a Public Town Hall Forum Sunday, August 26th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the KI Convention Center Complex at 333 Main Street in Green Bay. Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, will be the keynote speaker.

Once thought to impact only the building trades and factory workers, outsourcing now threatens the economic security of people in all job sectors: Computer engineers, IT specialists, call-center workers, paralegals, technical writers, teachers, accountants, attorneys, tax professionals and public service workers. By 2005 it is projected that over 830,000 U.S. tech jobs will have moved to low wage countries like India and China.

“Whether your job uses a phone, a computer or a welding torch, outsourcing impacts you,” said Andy Gussert, the project’s director. “Put simply, if you can telecommute from your home, your job can be outsourced.” Some of the highest paid doctors in American medicine – radiologists -- are losing their jobs to cheaper labor as offshore competitors examine X-Rays over email. Here in Wisconsin, dairy farmers are threatened by trade agreement loopholes, despite our status as “America’s Dairyland”.

While recent figures point to some new job creation in Wisconsin, the state manufacturing sector remains ten percent smaller than it was in March 2001, when the recession first began. “These new jobs simply don’t provide the same salary or benefits as the ones just outsourced and offshored,” added Gussert.

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Citizens Trade Campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental religious, family farm, and consumer organizations united in the pursuit of social and environmental justice in trade policy