

# Time for a U.S. Trade Turnaround

*We Support Balanced Trade, and Want More of It*

## A New American Agenda: Building a Framework that a Majority of Congress can support

- We want to work with the Administration and Congress to create new policies that ensure future trade agreements obtain broad support, and serve as tools for social good.
- We support responsible trade, but our current system has not worked, has not met past promises, and has not served the interests of a majority of people across our country, or the world.
- We are not *against* trade. We are *for* human rights, *for* democracy, *for* environmental biodiversity, and *for* good wages around the world. Trade can be a powerful tool to further these basic social goods.
- We support open trade, but want to leverage our marketplace to ensure trade is done fairly, with a focus on supporting a majority of working people.
- America has the largest and most robust market in the world, and if we open it up to other countries, we should expect them to play by the same rules we do, on a level playing field.

## Past FTAs are Merely Corporate Investment Schemes

- Past trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA are corporate investment schemes, concocted in back rooms by a handful of select people. Congress isn't even allowed to amend or alter them.
- Our current trade policy reflects the narrow interests of a few multinational conglomerates, rather than serving the majority of the citizens who create the value of goods and services through their labor.
- The Chamber of Commerce recently put up \$100 million dollars to protect the status quo model. That shows just how much big business has to lose if we pass real trade reform.
- Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over, and expecting different results. We will not experience different outcomes unless the corporate model is rewritten to address reoccurring problems.

## Hangover Bush FTAs: Colombia, Panama & Korea

- We strenuously oppose the three leftover Bush FTAs, and will fight for their defeat if they are brought before Congress.
- The three leftover Bush FTAs reflect the unsuccessful end of the past administration's trade policy, and should not serve as the starting point for the new Congress and administration.
- We want to work with the administration to renegotiate remaining agreements to ensure that they minimally pass the do-no-further-harm-test and thus become first steps towards a new trade model.

## Do No Further Harm: Changes Needed to the Failed Trade Model

- **Investment Rules:** Foreign investors should not have greater rights than those provided in U.S. law, and our public interest laws should not be exposed to challenge by foreign investors in secret tribunals.
- **Service Sector:** Extreme deregulation of service sectors, such as seen with Enron in California, resulted in market crisis. We must ensure the lessons learned nationally are also conveyed in future trade policy: Agreements must preserve the right for governments to maintain essential public services and regulate private sector services in the public interest.
- **Procurement:** Federal, state, and local governments' ability to use procurement as a policy tool, including Buy American laws, environmental standards (such as recycled content), and purchasing preferences for small, minority or women-owned businesses, must be safeguarded.

- **Food Safety:** The three Bush FTAs' texts replicate past agreements' limits on food-safety standards and inspection rates for imported food, and would still require the United States to accept imported food that does not meet our domestic safety standards.
- **Agriculture Provisions:** If this model is continued in Colombia and Panama, hunger is projected to increase, along with illicit drug cultivation, and undocumented migration. Moreover, extending this agriculture trade model would continue the race to the bottom in commodity prices, pitting farmer against farmer and country against country to see who can produce food the cheapest, regardless of labor, environment or food-safety standards.
- **Access to Medicines:** These texts still include NAFTA-style terms that undermine the medicine-access rights provided in the 2001 WTO Doha Declaration on Public Health that the 2002 Fast Track authorization.
- **Transparency:** Trade negotiation and implementation must be more open and transparent if public support is to be built.
- **Federalism:** State and local governments must be able to participate in trade decisions that will affect them.
- **Labor Standards:** Win-win trade agreements must include enforceable workers protections including the core International Labor Organization standards.
- **Environmental Provisions:** Trade agreements must contain environmental provisions enforceable on par with commercial provisions and must not undermine Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

### **The 2009 Trade Act**

- The *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act*, with over 123 cosponsors, offers a realistic roadmap for a more balance way to expand trade.
- The TRADE Act shifts the debate towards discussing a new model. It moves beyond repeatedly fighting against expansions of the old failed model.
- This legislation is a blueprint for building a new consensus, and promoting policy that a majority can support.

### **We Support President Obama's Campaign Promises**

- We strongly support the President's past commitments, and are rolling up our sleeves to help bring about these trade reforms validated by voters in the last election.
- More than 100 candidates nationwide -- from both parties -- joined the President in running on trade reform platforms in 2008.
- Over 80 seats flipped from pro-free-trade members to fair trade members during 2006 and 2008.
- We agree emphatically with their call to create new trade policies that serve the needs of all Americans, not only the special interests who have promoted the past, failed model.
- We strongly support the President's efforts to put people back to work, including use of *Buy American* stimulus programs. We also back his efforts to encourage stimulus spending around the world, and urge him to intensify those efforts.