Week of Demonstrations | WTO Turnaround 2009

Celebrate the Spirit from Seattle in 1999. Bring about a trade turnaround in 2009.

Canceled Checks.   Start a check writing campaign to an incumbent who is not supportive of our position. Be sure to write **CANCLE or NO GOOD** in HUGE letters across the check, and include a short note letting the Congressional member know you no longer support him or her. Write 'Trade Turnaround' in the subject line. Make all the checks out for an odd amount, such as $11.30, the anniversary of the Battle in Seattle.

Hold Haunted Trade House. As buildup, on Halloween, leading up to the WTO 11/30 event, have a haunted house with a zombie (WTO), a vampire (NAFTA) and Frankenstien (CAFTA). No matter how many times you try to kill them, they keep coming back. Have a coffin, with a lid on it. Invite people to come back in November and put the final nails on the coffin, and kill this failed trade model once and for all.

Factory Graveyard. In conjunction with this event, make large cardboard tombstones and write the names and life spans of factories that have shut down, or the number of family farms lost. *"RIP Murro Co. – 1979 - 2002. Will be mourned for by all those who lost their jobs."* Place the tombstones near haunted house, in a public park, or in front of a representative's district office or campaign office. Have the three monsters roam the graveyard.

Parade Ship. Find a local Thanksgiving parade, and build a float of a Mayfower style ship moving jobs overseas. Have somebody follow with a sign saying "Turn the ship around". Throw lifesaver candy, or tow a lifeboat. Include a "Seattle" banner a theme. Be sure to hand in proper registration, without being too obvious.

Banner Drop. Find a large building, bridge or structure visible in the middle of the city, and hang a large banner from it stating "Trade Turnaround" or "No to WTO".   If you think it will be removed, make sure media gets coverage of people unraveling it. Get photos. **Be safe!**

Visibility Teams. Have volunteers stand at busy intersections during rush hour with signs and banners. Use "Trade Turnaround" and "NO to WTO". Supplement with "Banner Drops" from a bridge or outside of a downtown office window, with a message such as "Yes Seattle '99. No WTO in '09." Let the TV and local media know when and where you'll be doing this. Catch the member driving to his office during recess.

Yard sign Campaign. Print or hand-create 50 signs that say your representative's name and "Trade Turnaround – We need a new round". Go to every door along the member's street, and ask if you can put one up in the yard. Also solicit houses along his commuting drive into the district office. Combine with visibility when he is back in district.

Stickering. Print out "Trade Turnaround, Time For A New Round" logo, or other similar item, and have you local union shop print out stickers. Cut them up and paste them around town in legal places. Include your representative's phone number, if they need educating. This is a good project for students.

Mobile Phone Bank. When people are meeting, get five cell phones and set up a table. Have a script and list of congressional contact numbers. Grab folks walking by, and have them take two minutes to make a call the representative on your dime. Offer a 'trade treat' for each completed call.

Lemonade Stand. Set up a lemonade stand in front of your representative's office or a public event. Have two pitchers, one of "safe" lemonade and one of icky, brown polluted lemonade. Hand out literature about unsafe food imports while gathering signatures, and encouraging people to make calls to the representative.

Scavenger Hunt. Publicly challenge your Representative to a "Free Trade Agreement Jobs Scavenger Hunt". Using TAA lists and other resources make a list of key locations that have lost jobs, and send him to those factories and businesses. Specify the job sectors he should be searching for in each area. Follow up with a release noting that while he was smart enough not to take the challenge, it will be worse next year. Put out the same release every year, on the same month.