

May 18, 2009

TRADE Act 2009: Trade Reform We Can Believe In

Dear Larry,

Last year, 74 House members and six senators cosponsored landmark legislation setting forth a progressive vision for good trade agreements: the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act. We expect this legislation to be reintroduced in Congress very soon. Your member signed on as a cosponsor in 2008. Can you make sure your representative supports this important legislation again this year?

[Please call your House member today and urge him or her to sign on again as a cosponsor of the TRADE Act.](#)

The TRADE Act, sponsored by fair trade champions Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine), lays out in detail a new path forward for U.S. trade policy to achieve societal goals such as good jobs, safe food and promotion of basic human rights, healthy communities and environmental protection.

We need the TRADE Act now more than ever. Despite President Obama's clear trade reform commitments on the campaign trail, some in the administration are seeking to move forward on the Bush hangover free trade agreement (FTA) with Panama. The TRADE Act details the specific changes that need to be made to the NAFTA/WTO trade model - changes that have not been made to the Panama FTA.

[Call and urge your member to sign on again as a TRADE Act cosponsor and say thanks for last year's efforts.](#)

As we told you last year, **the TRADE Act lays out what must and must not be in all U.S. trade pacts.** What must be included are strongly enforced labor, human rights, environmental and health standards so that corporations can only gain the benefits of trade pacts if they follow the rules needed to ensure trade works for all of us. This will also create incentives to improve



Trade legislation we can wholeheartedly support is here again this year! **[Call your representative today](#)** and urge him or her to cosponsor the TRADE Act again in 2009.

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conditions in poor countries. What must never again be included are extreme foreign investor protections that promote offshoring and expose our domestic public interest laws to attack. Also, trade agreements should never again include requirements to privatize or deregulate essential services such as health care, education or social security.

The TRADE Act requires a review and renegotiation of harmful existing trade pacts, such as NAFTA, CAFTA and the WTO. Additionally, the TRADE Act lays out a new system to replace Fast Track with a new system for negotiating and approving trade agreements so Congress and the public have the leverage necessary to ensure future agreements meet the new criteria provided in the legislation.

Following an election dominated by the public's demand for change, **the TRADE Act is trade reform we can believe in!**

[Please take action today and ask your representative to sign on to this year's TRADE Act and replace the NAFTA/WTO model once and for all.](#)

Thank you for all you do,
Bill Holland, Deputy Director
Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch division

P.S. For more information on the TRADE Act, [visit our website](#).

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