

H.R. 6180/S. 3083:

The TRADE Act

(Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act)

TRADE Act Addresses American Public's Demand for Change During Presidential Campaign With a New Way Forward on Trade, Globalization

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine) have worked with an array of labor, environmental, consumer, faith and family farm organizations to develop a bill that presents a progressive vision of what a good trade agreement must and must not include. This initiative sets forth **what we are for** – shutting down the bogus claim that we are anti-trade or have no alternative vision because we oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO) and similar damaging trade agreements promoted by the largest multinational corporations.

The TRADE Act provides a roadmap for a new American trade and globalization policy

The TRADE Act requires a **review** of existing trade pacts, including NAFTA, the WTO and other major pacts, and sets forth **what must and must not be included in future trade pacts**. It also provides for the **renegotiation** of existing trade agreements and describes the key elements of **a new trade negotiating and approval mechanism to replace Fast Track** that would enhance Congress' role in the formative aspects of agreements and promote future deals that could enjoy broad support among the American public.

The TRADE Act shifts the debate to discussing **a new trade and globalization model**. It moves the repeated fights against expansions of the old failed model and sets a marker for where discussion should start with a new Congress and president in 2009. One of our nation's greatest challenges is to create new rules for globalization that ensure economic security and the creation of quality jobs here, while offering opportunities for sustainable development in poor countries. Such rules would counter rising income inequality and the threats our current policies pose to national security, our shared global environment, public health and safety, and democratic accountability.

We must take action *now* to shape the future debate. The TRADE Act recognizes the Democratic presidential candidates' calls to renegotiate some pacts and brings Congress and the public into this process.

The TRADE ACT includes:

Section 3: Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive review of existing major trade agreements by June 10, 2010, including economic outcomes in the U.S. and abroad and various security, human rights, social and environmental indicators. The TRADE Act also requires the GAO to report on how the current agreements measure up against the detailed description in the bill of what must and must not be included in future U.S. trade agreements.

Section 4: Sets forth the food and product safety, environmental and labor standards; federalism protections; agriculture rules; national security exceptions; and currency anti-manipulation and trade remedy rules that must be included in all American trade pacts. And, because WTO-NAFTA-model trade agreements extend far beyond traditional trade matters, this section also lists what *cannot* be included in future American trade agreements, including service sector privatization and deregulation requirements; bans on Buy American and anti-sweat shop or environmental procurement policies; new rights and privileges for foreign investors to promote offshoring and expose domestic health and environmental laws to attacks in foreign tribunals; and special protections for Big Pharma to limit affordable access of generic medicines. (These outrages are in WTO, NAFTA and similar pacts.)

Section 5: Requires the president to submit renegotiation plans to Congress to remedy the gaps identified by the GAO between our current pacts and the criteria for good agreements listed in section 4 *prior* to negotiating new agreements and prior to congressional consideration of pending agreements.

Section 6: Establishes a committee comprised of the chairs and ranking members of all congressional committees whose jurisdiction is implicated by today's expansive "trade" pacts to review the president's plan for renegotiations.

Section 7: Lays out criteria for a new mechanism to replace the anti-democratic Fast Track negotiating process. To obtain agreements that benefit a wider array of interests, this new process includes Congress setting readiness criteria to select future negotiating partners; mandatory negotiating objectives based on the Section 4 criteria of what must be and must not be in future trade pacts; and the requirements that Congress must certify that the objectives were met, and then vote on an agreement *before* it can be signed.

TRADE Act support:

AFL-CIO	Sierra Club
Change to Win	National Farmers Union
Communications Workers of America (CWA)	National Family Farm Coalition
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME)	UNITE-HERE
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)	United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers	Friends of the Earth
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	Public Citizen
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)	Citizens Trade Campaign
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades	UNITE-HERE
United Steelworkers (USW)	Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
	Americans for Democratic Action

House Cosponsors:

1. Collin Peterson	19. Dale Kildee	37. Al Green	55. Charlie Wilson
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6. John Murtha	24. Bruce Braley	42. Mike Doyle	60. Bart Stupak
7. Alcee Hastings	25. Dave Loebsack	43. Emmanuel Cleaver	61. Chris Carney
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11. Maurice Hinchey	29. Hank Johnson	47. Tammy Baldwin	65. Paul Kanjorski
12. Bill Delahunt	30. John Sarbanes	48. Marcy Kaptur	66. James Oberstar
13. Jan Schakowsky	31. Phil Hare	49. Dennis Kucinich	67. Ciro Rodriguez
14. Linda Sanchez	32. Betty Sutton	50. Carol Shea-Porter	68. Timothy Walz
15. Tim Holden	33. Jesse Jackson	51. Mazie Hirono	69. Peter Welch
16. Mike Ross	34. Dan Lipinski	52. Michael Arcuri	
17. Peter Visclosky	35. Keith Ellison	53. Patrick Murphy	Sponsor:
18. Danny Davis	36. Gene Green	54. Steve Kagen	Michael Michaud

Senate Cosponsors:

1. Byron Dorgan	3. Bob Casey	5. Bernie Sanders	
2. Russ Feingold	4. Sheldon Whitehouse	6. Robert Byrd	Sponsor: Sherrod Brown

For more information on the TRADE Act and to get involved:
Contact CTC Director Andrew Gussert agussert@citizenstrade.org