



# Citizens Trade Digest

February 25, 2008

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## Trade Becoming Top Presidential Campaign Issue

The Wisconsin primary pushed the long-simmering trade policy debate among Presidential hopefuls to the forefront. Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton stepped up their critiques of the NAFTA trade model, while taking swipes at each other about consistency. Even those who dismiss their statements recognize that this is smart campaign strategy. Nationwide polling demonstrates widespread discontent with the current trade agenda. The Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition took advantage of this climate to press Clinton and Obama for specifics on their trade policy platforms. Both candidates responded to detailed questionnaires, with their answers posted at [www.wisconsinfairtrade.org](http://www.wisconsinfairtrade.org)

This set the tone as Clinton and Obama head into primaries in Texas and Ohio on March 4. Seeking the votes of these of rust-belt and border state residents, both have continued to suggest responses to the social and economic fallout of standing trade agreements.

- **Obama targets NAFTA but says supports free trade**  
Reuters, February 25, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_obamasupportsfreetrade\\_02252008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_obamasupportsfreetrade_02252008.pdf)
- **Obama, Clinton Wrangle Over Trade Before Ohio Contest**  
Bloomberg, February 23, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg\\_tradewrangleohio\\_02232008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg_tradewrangleohio_02232008.pdf)
- **Clinton Slams Obama Tactics**  
New York Times, February 23, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nyt\\_clintonslamsobamatactics\\_02232008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nyt_clintonslamsobamatactics_02232008.pdf)
- **Clinton Works to Hold Ohio Lead as Obama Attacks on Trade, Jobs**  
Bloomberg, February 22, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg\\_clintonobamaohio\\_02222008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/bloomberg_clintonobamaohio_02222008.pdf)
- **A Trade Transformation**  
Creators Syndicate, February 22, 2008

- [www.alternet.org/workplace/77499/](http://www.alternet.org/workplace/77499/)
- **Decoding Candidates on Trade**  
Wall Street Journal, February 21, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj\\_decodingcandidatesontrade\\_02212008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_decodingcandidatesontrade_02212008.pdf)
  - **Barack Obama: I will repair our relationship with Mexico**  
Dallas Morning News, February 20, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/dallasmornnews\\_obamarepairmexrelationship\\_02202008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/dallasmornnews_obamarepairmexrelationship_02202008.pdf)
  - **Wisconsin Put Trade on the Agenda**  
The Nation, February 19, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nation\\_wisconsinputtradeonagenda\\_02192008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nation_wisconsinputtradeonagenda_02192008.pdf)
  - **Primary makes Clinton, Obama talk trade**  
Capital Times, February 19, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/captimes\\_obamaclintontalktrade\\_02192008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/captimes_obamaclintontalktrade_02192008.pdf)
  - **Press Release: Failed Trade Agenda Cooling on Chilly Primary Election Day**  
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition, February 19, 2008  
[www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/WFTC\\_-\\_Press\\_Release\\_-\\_Democratic\\_Responses\\_-\\_February\\_19\\_2008.pdf](http://www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/WFTC_-_Press_Release_-_Democratic_Responses_-_February_19_2008.pdf)
  - **Trade Questions for 2008 Presidential Candidates: Responses from Sen. Clinton**  
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition, February 18, 2008  
[www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/Wisconsin\\_Fair\\_Trade\\_Coalition\\_FINAL\\_02\\_18\\_08.pdf](http://www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/Wisconsin_Fair_Trade_Coalition_FINAL_02_18_08.pdf)
  - **Trade Questions for 2008 Presidential Candidates: Responses from Sen. Obama**  
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition, February 18, 2008  
[www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/WFTC\\_-\\_BHO\\_Questionnaire\\_WFTC\\_021808\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.campaignwindow.com/portal/uploads/wisconsinfairtradecoalition/WFTC_-_BHO_Questionnaire_WFTC_021808_FINAL.pdf)
  - **Americans turning tepid on trade**  
Washington Post, February 17, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/washpost\\_amsturnfttepid\\_02172008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/washpost_amsturnfttepid_02172008.pdf)
  - **Obama criticizes Clinton on NAFTA**  
United Press International, February 17, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/upi\\_obamaclintonnafta\\_02192008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/upi_obamaclintonnafta_02192008.pdf)
  - **Obama Talks Tough(er) on Trade to Win Wisconsin**  
The Nation, February 13, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nation\\_obamatoughtradetalk\\_02142008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nation_obamatoughtradetalk_02142008.pdf)

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## Peruvian Farmers Protest FTA Implementation

At least four people have been killed in Peru since Monday, February 18, when farmers called a general strike to protest implementation of the US-Peru Free Trade Agreement. Farmers say the US subsidized agricultural products expected to flood the Peruvian market will ruin their livelihoods. They are calling on the Peruvian government to provide subsidies in response. Protestors are also asking for price controls on fertilizer, government investment in irrigation, and help for indebted farmers threatened with foreclosure.

Prime Minister Jorge del Castillo called a state of emergency in seven provinces most affected by highway blockages and confrontations with police.

Having finalized the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, Peru is set to pursue similar deals with Canada, Mexico and China.

- **Three killed in farmers, cops clash in Peru**  
Associated Press, February 20, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap\\_farmerskilledinperu\\_02202008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_farmerskilledinperu_02202008.pdf)
- **Striking farmers cut access to Peru's Machu Picchu**  
Reuters, February 19, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_strikingfarmersperu\\_02192008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_strikingfarmersperu_02192008.pdf)
- **Peru Declares State of Emergency on Farm Protests**  
Bloomberg, February 19, 2008  
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## Pending Free Trade Agreements Almost Certain to Continue Stagnating

The Bush administration continues to intimate plans for a full-court press on the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. The President seemed so eager to finalize the FTAs before the end of his term that some feared he might introduce the Colombia legislation to the House without Democratic leadership consent. The Colombia FTA does not have enough support to pass that House, however, and would likely meet even greater opposition if the Bush Administration were to proceed in this manner. As a result, few believe that the President is still considering this “nuclear option.”

The Panama and South Korea deals continue to meet their own opposition in the US Congress. In addition, the Bush Administration's desire to introduce the FTAs to Congress in the order that they were signed creates a bottleneck behind Colombia, only compounding the resistance that the Panama and South Korea deals would otherwise face.

South Korean Business interests have called for ratification of the KORUS FTA, and direct lobbying of the US Congress to do the same. Meanwhile, the South Korean Labor Party stymies the deal's progression with the country's legislature.

Clashes between workers and police in Panama over the shooting death of a construction worker have raised questions about respect for worker rights in that nation.

- **Ecuador trade breaks should be for good-US lawmaker**  
Reuters, February 18, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_permecuadortradebreaks\\_02182008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_permecuadortradebreaks_02182008.pdf)
- **Panama workers, police clash; hundreds arrested**  
Reuters, February 15, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_panamaclashescontinue\\_02152008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_panamaclashescontinue_02152008.pdf)
- **House Panel Extends Andean Trade Pact**  
Associated Press, February 14, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap\\_housepassesatpa\\_02142008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_housepassesatpa_02142008.pdf)

- **Panama unions clash with police over shooting death**  
Reuters, February 13, 2008  
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- **Panama unions clash with police over shooting death**  
Reuters, February 13, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_panamaunionclash\\_02132008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_panamaunionclash_02132008.pdf)
- **Labor party hogties FTA debate**  
Korea Herald, February 12, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/korea Herald\\_laborpartyhogtiesfta\\_02122008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/korea Herald_laborpartyhogtiesfta_02122008.pdf)
- **Colombia trade deal dead this year, US unions say**  
Reuters, February 12, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_colombiadealdeadthisyear\\_02122008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_colombiadealdeadthisyear_02122008.pdf)
- **Labor leaders to visit Colombia as Bush presses for vote**  
Reuters, February 7, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters\\_labortovisitcolombia\\_02072008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/reuters_labortovisitcolombia_02072008.pdf)
- **Bush lobbies for more free trade deals**  
AFP, January 29, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp\\_bushlobbiesformorefreetrade\\_01292008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_bushlobbiesformorefreetrade_01292008.pdf)
- **Bush to Pitch Free Trade**  
Wall Street Journal, January 28, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj\\_bushtopitchfreetrade\\_01282008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_bushtopitchfreetrade_01282008.pdf)
- **Rights need addressing before Colombia trade deal: US lawmakers**  
AFP, January 26, 2008  
[www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp\\_colombianeedsrightsaddressed\\_01262008.pdf](http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/afp_colombianeedsrightsaddressed_01262008.pdf)
- **If I Could Show Congress the Real Colombia**  
Gerardo Cajamarca Alarcón, January 24, 2008  
[www.huffingtonpost.com/gerardo-cajamarca-alarc/if-i-could-show-congress-\\_b\\_83059.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gerardo-cajamarca-alarc/if-i-could-show-congress-_b_83059.html)