



Support the 2009 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act

June 8, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of our tens of thousands of Latin America policy advocates across the country, we ask you to support the 2009 reintroduction of the *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act* and add your name as an original cosponsor. First introduced in the 110th session by Sen. Sherrod Brown and Rep. Mike Michaud, this bill gained more than six dozen Congressional and Senate cosponsors last year, along with the institutional backing of hundreds of diverse faith, farm, labor, consumer, and environmental groups.

The TRADE Act charts policy space for a more balanced and just approach to trade. It maps a forward-thinking alternative to the discredited NAFTA trade model, articulating a new model that we can actually support.

With offices in the United States, Mexico, and Nicaragua, we have spent over a decade observing firsthand the manifold impacts of trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Trade should serve the interests of the majority on issues such as wages, public health, the environment, food security, consumer safety and access to essential services. Instead, NAFTA-style pacts have erased scores of decent U.S. jobs and built downward pressure on domestic wages. In Mexico and Central America, the deeply asymmetrical agricultural stipulations of these trade agreements have displaced millions of small-scale farmers, fostered dependency on fickle and exploitative assembly industries, and forced unprecedented numbers to migrate to the U.S. Meanwhile, the trade agreements' sweeping investment provisions have restricted access to life-saving medicines, threatened access to water and other essential services, and subverted democratically-enacted environmental protection laws to the narrow interests of investors.

The TRADE Act would take significant steps toward mending these flawed agreements and ensuring that future ones promote good jobs, public health, food security, and environmental sustainability. That's why we are asking you to join eighty of your colleagues who cosponsored last year's TRADE Act by signing on to the 2009 TRADE Act today. **To sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office (kim.glas@mail.house.gov) or Chris Slevin in Sen. Brown's office (Chris.Slevin@brown.senate.gov).**

Sincerely,

Sharon Hostetler,
Executive Director, Witness for Peace

Witness for Peace is a politically independent, nationwide grassroots organization of tens of thousands of U.S. citizens committed to nonviolence and led by faith and conscience. WFP's mission is to support peace, justice and sustainable economies in the Americas by changing U.S. policies and corporate practices which contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean.