



# Maine Fair Trade Campaign

*Working together for fair trade  
and a just, sustainable and democratic  
global economy*

238 GODDARD RD. LEWISTON, MAINE 04240 • (207) 777-6387 • WWW.MAINEFAIRTRADE.ORG

## Coalition Member Organizations

- Alliance for Democracy
- Auburn WAGE Committee
- Central Maine Central Labor Council
- Eastern Maine Labor Council
- Food AND Medicine
- Greater Brunswick Peace Works
- IAMAW Machinists Local 1821
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 567
- IBEW 1768
- IBEW 1837
- IBEW 2327
- Laborers Local Union 327
- The League of Young Voters
- Maine AFL-CIO
- Maine Council of Churches
- Maine Council of Senior Citizens
- Maine Education Association
- Maine Labor Council – United Steel Workers
- Maine Labor Group on Health
- Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA)
- Maine Peoples Alliance
- Maine State Employees Association SEIU Local 1989
- National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 391
- Pax Christi Maine
- Peace Action Maine
- Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County
- Peace through Inter-American Community Action (PICA)
- Portland Organizing to Win Economic Rights (POWER)
- Sierra Club, Maine chapter
- Southern Maine Central Labor Council
- Sustainable Harvest
- Teamsters Local 340
- UA Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 716
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick
- UNITE -HERE Local 486
- United Food & Commercial Workers 791
- UFCW 1445
- United Steelworkers (USW) Local 9
- USW Local 11
- USW Local 36
- USW Local 261
- USW Local 900
- USW Local 1069
- USW Local 1188
- Veterans for Peace
- Waldo County Progressives
- Western Maine Labor Council
- Women's Intl. League for Peace & Freedom

## Maine Fair Trade Campaign Questions for 2008 Congressional Candidates

The Maine Fair Trade Campaign is a statewide coalition of environmental, labor, family farm, religious, and community groups working to build a more just and sustainable global economy. MFTC members are united in a common belief that international trade and investment are not simply ends unto themselves, but must be viewed as a means for achieving other societal goals, such as economic justice and the promotion of human rights. The rules which govern our global economy must reflect the views and needs of the majority of people on issues such as jobs, wages, the environment, human rights, food and consumer safety, access to essential services, and public health.

Because it is Congress' constitutional responsibility to govern international trade, we want to hear from all of Maine's Congressional Candidates on their positions on international trade policy.

It is not enough that candidates merely highlight the trade issue. Our country needs to see real answers, based on a dedicated commitment to change, if we hope to solve these difficult problems. Your responses will be shared with our national and state partners in the labor, environmental, family farm and faith communities, and we encourage you to supplement answers with additional information, explanations and rationale.

### 2008 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Michael H. Michaud  
 Campaign Address: 213 Lisbon St., Lewiston, Maine 04240  
 Party Affiliation: Democrat  
 Campaign Manager: Greg Olson  
 FAX:  
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**PLEASE RETURN TO MFTC BY AUGUST 22nd**  
**238 Goddard Rd.**  
**Lewiston, ME 04240**  
**[sarah@mainefairtrade.org](mailto:sarah@mainefairtrade.org)**

### NAFTA Style Trade Agreements

We believe NAFTA has failed the U.S. and our trading partners. It has sent good working-class jobs offshore and fuels environmental damage. NAFTA

grants extra rights to foreign investors and limits our ability to inspect for the safety of children's toys or the food supply.

1. Several Presidential candidates committed to review and renegotiate NAFTA over the next four years. Do you support reviewing and renegotiating NAFTA during your next term of office?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      **No**

**Additional Comments:**

2. As a Member of Congress, if the vote came up today, would you support or oppose the Colombia Free Trade Agreement?

**Please circle one:**    **Support**                      Oppose

**Additional Comments:**

3. Do you believe NAFTA, overall, has done more to help or hurt the economy of United States?

**Please circle one:**    **Help**                                      Hurt

**Additional Comments:**

### **Meaningful Labor and Environmental Provisions**

Labor rights set out within International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions include the *freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, the effective abolition of child labor, the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, and the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.*

4. Will you insist that new trade agreements include, within the text, these five basic internationally-recognized core labor rights stated within the ILO conventions?

**Please Circle One:**    Yes                                      **No**

**Additional Comments:**

5. Will you insist that new trade agreements incorporate major Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which make up the global consensus on basic environmental protections?

**Please Circle One:**    Yes                                      **No**

**Additional Comments:**

6. Will you oppose future trade agreement which do not include enforceable protections for workers and the environment such as those listed above?

**Please Circle One: Yes                      No**

**Additional Comments:**

### **Enforcement**

7. Will you insist that any worker rights and environmental standards be subject to the same dispute resolution and enforcement mechanisms currently in place that are used to enforce commercial provisions in trade agreements?

**Please Circle One: Yes                      No**

**Additional Comments:**

### **Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority**

8. Do you support strengthening the role of Congress in trade policy by replacing the failed Fast Track process with a new system that includes readiness criteria to determine appropriate negotiating partners, binding obligations regarding what must and must not be in future trade agreements, and the right for Congress to vote before an agreement is signed?

**Please Circle One: Yes                      No**

**Additional Comments:**

9. The State of Maine, along with all of the other states, is bound to provisions of U.S. Trade Agreements but has had no say in their negotiation. Do you support replacing Fast Track with a new process that includes mechanisms for state input and for the ability for state's to opt-out?

**Please Circle One: Yes                      No**

**Additional Comments:**

### **The Trade Deficit**

10. Will you support emergency policies to bring our trade deficit into balance, including addressing currency manipulation, eliminating tax breaks for off shoring production, and exploring other options, such as an import surcharge?

**Please circle one: Yes                      No**

**Additional Comments:**

### **Foreign Investor Rights**

11. Existing trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA give foreign investors greater rights than U.S. residents or businesses. With these investor rights, a foreign business can sue the State of Maine for passing public health or environmental protection laws, and can demand compensation in taxpayer dollars for these laws. Do you agree that future trade agreements should not grant foreign investors and overseas companies greater rights than U.S. residents or businesses?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      No  
**Additional Comments:**

12. Are you willing to renegotiate existing agreements, like NAFTA and CAFTA, to eliminate these investor rules that undermine the legitimate right of a government to protect public health and the environment?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      No  
**Additional Comments:**

### **Privatization and Regulation**

In several international trade negotiations, the current administration has pushed for rules that would give private foreign companies the right to bid on work currently done by public employees – at the federal, state and local levels – regardless of whether citizens and their elected officials decide they want to privatize those services.

13. Will you insist upon negotiating trade agreements that would not mandate or require the privatization or deregulation of essential services, including education, health care, construction, transportation, water supply and energy?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      No  
**Additional Comments:**

Since the WTO was established and NAFTA approved, free trade agreements have become increasingly intrusive, threatening to dispose of state and even local laws and regulations to protect public health, the environment, local and minority-owned business, and workers' rights as disguised obstacles to trade.

14. Would you support language in new trade agreements safeguarding the rights of states and local governments to regulate in the public interest?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      No  
**Additional Comments:**

## **The WTO “Doha Round”**

The failing “Doha Round” of talks at the World Trade Organization seeks to expand corporate investor rights and to liberalize services — including possible privatization of public goods like education and water utilities.

15. Do you support the U.S. walking out of the Doha Round, and calling for a new direction in global trade talks to prioritize protections for workers, the poor, the environment, people of color, and public health, and to ensure that global trade rules do not undermine the ability of governments to regulate in the public interest?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      **No**

**Additional Comments:**

## **Agricultural Provisions**

16. Will you insist upon trade agreements that secure family farmers' livelihoods by offering fair prices for their products, that support measures to safeguard the health of rural communities, and that ensure the access of farm laborers to fair wages, contracts, and safe working conditions?

**Please circle one:**    Yes                      **No**

**Additional Comments:**

“Dumping” refers to the practice of exporting subsidized commodities onto the markets of another nation at prices below the actual cost of production. Under NAFTA, the exportation of subsidized corn crops from the U.S. decimated Mexican farmers, putting more than 1.5 million family farmers out of business. Likewise, Chinese steel manufacturers have used a similar practice to displace U.S. steel workers.

17. Do you believe that the practice of “dumping” should be allowed in trade agreements?

**Please circle one:**    **Yes**                      No

**Additional Comments:**

Any additional comments or responses you would care to expand upon?

I congratulate the Maine Fair Trade Campaign for all the outstanding work you do on trade issues.

I attest that these answers represent my beliefs, are now part of the public record, and may be used by the Maine Fair Trade Campaign to keep members and the public informed about trade issues.

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**Signature**

**Date**

Thank you for your willingness to complete this questionnaire. We would like to act as a resource of information to you and your campaign. We look forward to working with you over the period of your candidacy, and thereafter.