

# Oregon Fair Trade Campaign

## *Candidate Questionnaire for Federal Office*

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The Oregon Fair Trade Campaign is a statewide coalition of more than twenty labor, environmental and human rights organizations. Information about our coalition and its mission can be found on our website: [www.oregonfairtrade.org](http://www.oregonfairtrade.org).

We are interested in knowing what you think about a variety of issues surrounding the economy and trade. Answers to the following questions will be used to educate voters, highlight trade issues and create voter guides.

Please return your completed questionnaire to Arthur Stamoulis at the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign by emailing [orftc@citizenstrade.org](mailto:orftc@citizenstrade.org) or calling (503) 736-9777.

### **NAFTA-Style Trade Agreements**

NAFTA Style Trade Agreements have failed the United States and our trading partners. Since NAFTA and WTO went into effect, U.S. firms have used the investor protections in these pacts to relocate production to low-wage countries. The result is the loss of over 3 million U.S. family-supporting manufacturing jobs, real wages suppressed even as productivity has increased, floods of unsafe imported products and food and severe harm to our environment.

1. Many of the 2008 presidential candidates committed to review and renegotiate aspects of NAFTA if elected. Do you support reviewing and renegotiating NAFTA in the next two years?

Please circle one: Yes No

Additional Comments:

2. If elected Senator, would you support or oppose the Colombia Free Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Support Oppose

Additional Comments:

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3. If elected Senator, would you support or oppose the Panama Free Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

4. If elected Senator, would you support or oppose the South Korea Trade Agreement?

Please circle one: Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

5. How would you describe the effect of NAFTA on the U.S. economy?

Please Circle One: Severely Damaging Damaging No Effect Somewhat Positive Positive

Additional Comments:

## Labor and Environmental Provisions

Today's trade agreements create a global market place with new rights and protections for investors, service sector firms, patents and tradable goods. Missing from these agreements are rights and protections for workers, public health and the environment. This unbalanced system of global governance has resulted in a race to the bottom similar to what occurred in the United States at the turn of the last century when national corporations and investors played states off of each other to lower wages, workers rights and public protections in the absence of national laws.

6. Will you oppose any trade agreement that fails to include, within its core text, the requirement that all signatory countries adopt into domestic law and effectively enforce the five basic internationally-recognized core labor rights established within the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions?

Please Circle One: Yes

No

Additional Comments:

7. Will you oppose any trade agreement that fails to include, within its core text, the requirement that all signatory countries adopt into domestic law and effectively enforce the obligations of the major multilateral environmental agreements, which comprise the global consensus on basic environmental protection?

Please Circle One: Yes

No

Additional Comments:

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8. Will you oppose any trade agreement that fails to provide for worker rights and environmental standards the same dispute resolution and enforcement mechanisms and penalties that are at least as effective as the mechanisms and penalties that apply to the commercial provisions of the agreement?

Please Circle One: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments:

## Fast Track Trade Promotion Authority

Fast Track is an extraordinary procedure used to negotiate and implement NAFTA, WTO, CAFTA and ten other trade agreements. Fast Track, which sunset in 2007, allowed the executive branch to select countries for trade agreements, to set the substance of trade agreements, and then negotiate and sign agreements all before Congress has a vote on the matter. Fast Track also forced Congress to vote on whatever agreements the executive branch signs within ninety days, with debate limited and no amendments allowed. Fast track destroys the checks and balances process included in the Constitution that provides Congress with exclusive authority to set the terms of commerce with foreign nations. Many in Congress believe a new trade negotiating process must be created to replace Fast Track.

9. Do you support strengthening Congress's role in trade policy by replacing the failed Fast Track process with a new system that includes congressionally-set 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:

10. If elected Senator, would you oppose a future president's request to reestablish fast track trade promotion authority?

Please Circle One: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments:

## The Trade Deficit

11. If elected Senator, will you support emergency policies to bring our trade deficit into balance, including imposing penalties against the imports of countries that manipulate their currencies to obtain trade advantages, implementing mechanisms to balance non-energy imports and exports between the U.S. and its trade partners, and the exploration of other options, such as an import surcharge?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments:



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## Foreign Investor Rights

Existing trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA provide extraordinary rights and protections for foreign investors. This includes providing foreign investors operating within the United States greater rights than U.S. residents or businesses are provided under the U.S. Constitution. These trade agreements allow foreign businesses to bypass our courts and directly sue the United States in foreign trade tribunals for taxpayer compensation when the foreign investor believes their new rights have been violated because a new U.S. law undermines their 'expected future profits.' Under NAFTA, scores of environmental, zoning, health and safety laws have been challenged before the U.N. and World Bank tribunals with over \$35 million paid out and billions in outstanding claims pending. These investor rules also directly promote offshoring of U.S. investment and jobs by removing the risks and costs normally associated with relocating to low wage developing countries.

12. If elected Senator, will you oppose any future trade agreement that includes investor protections that grant foreign investors and overseas companies greater rights than U.S. residents and businesses, or private investor-state enforcement systems of such rights?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Additional Comments:

13. If elected Senator, will you advocate for renegotiation of existing agreements, like NAFTA and CAFTA, to eliminate their extraordinary foreign investor rules that promote offshoring?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Additional Comments:

## Procurement

14. If elected Senator, will you advocate for renegotiation of the procurement provisions in WTO, NAFTA and the various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) now in effect that ban *Buy America* and similar preferences. This would include renegotiating provisions that limit federal and state governments' ability to use procurement policy to achieve other important social goals, including safeguarding prevailing wage, renewable energy, and recycled content?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Additional Comments:

## Agriculture and Food Safety

15. If elected Senator, will you oppose any trade agreement that contains the limits on imported food safety standards and inspection rates that are now included in the WTO, NAFTA and other NAFTA-style FTAs, and will you require that only products and food that meet our U.S. safety standards are allowed to enter our markets?

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Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

16. Will you advocate that future trade agreements ensure a consumers' right to know about the origin of their food through mandatory labeling and traceability mechanisms, including disclosure of country of origin, the presence of genetically engineered ingredients or cloned meat, and other ingredients that consumers should reasonably know are in their food?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

17. Will you advocate for trade agreements that allow publicly funded procurement programs at the federal, state and local levels to provide a preference to foods grown locally and regionally without the threat of being pre-empted by international trade rules?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

## The WTO "Doha Round"

The WTO "Doha Round" negotiations are designed to expand the existing WTO model rather than address the problems in the existing WTO rules. The U.S. should call for a new direction in global trade talks to prioritize protections for workers, the poor, the environment, and public health.

18. Will you commit to oppose the current direction of the WTO "Doha Round", and to champion a new direction in global trade talks?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

Among the proposals now on the table at WTO Doha Round talks are new constraints on the use of U.S. anti-dumping, countervailing duty, and other trade laws used to fight illegal subsidies and other forms of trade cheating. Under the existing WTO rules, the United States has lost 29 WTO challenges against its existing trade remedy laws.

19. If elected Senator, will you oppose any Doha Round WTO Agreement that includes new limits on the use or scope of U.S. anti-dumping, subsidy and other trade laws?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

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Also on the table at the WTO Doha Round talks is a major expansion of the WTO's service sector rules. The Bush Administration has offered to bind the U.S. higher education sector to WTO jurisdiction. This would limit U.S. federal and state government policy space regarding education policy. As well, new disciplines on the regulation of all domestic services, including limits on standards, professional qualifications and licensing are included in the Doha Round.

20. If elected Senator, will you oppose any Doha Round WTO Agreement that includes submission of U.S. higher education to WTO jurisdiction or further limits on domestic service sector regulation?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

Existing U.S. WTO commitments regarding health insurance, hospitals, pharmaceutical distribution and other service sectors must be amended in order to implement vital U.S. health care reforms. The Bush Administration recently petitioned WTO to remove the U.S. gambling sector from WTO jurisdiction to restore our ability to regulate this service.

21. If elected Senator, will you oppose any Doha Round WTO Agreement unless U.S. health care services are removed from WTO jurisdiction?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

## Privatization

Trade agreement like WTO and NAFTA contain service sector provisions that privatize and deregulate many services.

22. If elected Senator, will you oppose any trade agreements that include the privatization or deregulation of essential services, including education, health care, construction, transportation, water supply and energy?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

## National Security

23. Do you believe we should prioritize national security and our sovereignty over globalization, even though such actions may conflict with the WTO?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:



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24. Would you support exempting U.S. bioenergy production from future trade agreement rules for the purpose of increasing our energy self-sufficiency and enhancing national security?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

## A New Model for Trade

25. Legislation called the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (S. 3083) was recently introduced to respond to public demand for comprehensive change to the nation's trade policy. The TRADE Act outlines mandatory criteria for what must and must not be included in future trade agreements. It establishes a process for reviewing and renegotiating existing trade pacts, and reasserts Congressional authority in the trade policymaking process. If elected Senator, will you support the TRADE Act?

Please circle one: ☒ Yes

No

Additional Comments:

These answers represent my beliefs, are part of the public record and may be used by the Oregon Fair Trade Campaign to keep members and the public informed about trade issues.

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, and look forward to working with you over the period of your candidacy, and thereafter.*