

Citizens Trade PAC

Questions for 2008 Congressional Candidates

Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC) is a national coalition of labor, environmental, faith, family farm and civil society groups originally founded in 1992 to fight the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Our CTC members are united in a common belief that the rules which govern the global economy must reflect the needs of a majority of the people on issues such as jobs, wages, the environment, human rights, consumer safety, access to essential services, and public health. We know 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.

Over the past sixteen years, CTC has led campaigns to promote alternatives to the failed status quo trade and globalization model, while opposing mechanisms that expand the current model, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), NAFTA and various NAFTA expansions such as Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

The Citizens Trade PAC is a connected PAC of the Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC). Since 1992, we have developed a broad network of state labor, environmental, Latino, consumer, family farm, agriculture and faith-based organizations active within their local communities. With their help, we identify congressional campaigns where trade is a significant issue.

It is not enough that candidates simply highlight trade with sound bites. American voters want to see real change in the terms of trade and globalization. We encourage you to supplement the answers below with additional information, explanations and rationales. Your responses will be shared with our national and state partners in the labor, environmental, consumer, Latino, family farm and faith communities. Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire.

Please return questionnaires by email to ctc_pac@charter.net You can also send completed forms back by mail to CTC PAC, PO Box 77077, Washington, DC 20013 or fax them to 202/293-5308.

2008 CTC Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: _____

Campaign Address: _____

Party Affiliation: _____ **Cong. District #** _____

Campaign Manager: _____ **FAX:** _____

Contact phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Primary date (if applicable): _____

Opponent(s): _____

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 Representative, would you support or oppose the Colombia Free Trade Agreement?

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

Additional Comments:

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

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

Additional Comments:

4. If elected Representative, 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. The result of 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:

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:

Procurement

14. If elected Representative, will you advocate for renegotiation of the procurement provisions in WTO, NAFTA and the various Free Trade Agreements (FTA) 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 Representative, 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 require that only products and food that meet our U.S. safety standards are allowed to enter our markets?

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.

Privatization

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

22. If elected Representative, 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

When a firm owned by the Emirate of Dubai sought to acquire operation at an array of U.S. ports, many people became aware of the new threats to our national security when trade agreements and globalization policies prioritize investor rights over our security and safety. Private and foreign ownership of our infrastructure, such as railways, highways and ports, and foreign ownership of our resources, such as water and energy, may threaten our country's 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:

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:

These answers represent my beliefs, are part of the public record, and may be used by Citizens 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.