



July 1, 2008

**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

LINDELL K. LEE
International Secretary-Treasurer

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Bldg., Rm. SH-713
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I urge you to support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment (TRADE) Act (H.R. 6180), legislation that promotes fair and equitable trade among nations. If enacted, the TRADE Act will become a guide for U.S. trade negotiators by setting the terms of what should and should not be included in future trade agreements. It will promote the correction of omissions in past free trade agreements (FTAs), and return trade oversight to Congress where it properly belongs.

For too long, Congress has abdicated trade promotion authority to the executive branch and the results have been a disaster. The North American Free Trade Agreement alone has cost our nation close to a million jobs and contributed greatly to the problem of illegal immigration. The TRADE Act attempts to mitigate this by requiring a review of existing agreements and, if necessary, the renegotiation of flawed compacts.

The TRADE Act also contains a provision that lists criteria for a new negotiating mechanism to replace the now-expired "fast track" process. This new process includes setting readiness criteria for selecting future trading partners. It further requires the inclusion of labor, environmental, product safety, food, government procurement, and intellectual property rights protections.

The TRADE Act shifts the trade debate towards a new model that accounts for the needs of all Americans, not multi-national corporations. I urge you to support the TRADE Act and encourage you to become a co-sponsor as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin D. Hill".

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:lgd