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Contact:

Virginia Cramer, 804-225-9114 x 102

**New Bill Trades Good Deals for Bad  
TRADE Act Helps Fight Global Warming, Protect Workers and Environment**

The Sierra Club welcomes the introduction of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act of 2008 today by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME) as a timely and essential alternative to the current trade paradigm. The TRADE Act will chart a new course for international commerce, including a review of prior trade agreements, resulting in more responsible resource consumption and respect for workers and communities.

“The track record over the past decade is clear: Bad trade deals have led to environmental degradation, natural resource depletion worldwide, and increased global warming pollution. The consequences can be seen not only in local communities but in the climate challenge we are now facing,” said Margrete Strand Rangnes, Director of the Sierra Club’s Trade Program. “We applaud Senator Brown and Congressman Michaud for introducing the TRADE Act which will ensure that the rights of workers and the environment are protected, while safeguards for public health, consumer safety and access to essential services are maintained.”

The bill will expand upon the progress made in the environmental provisions of the Peru-U.S. FTA. The TRADE Act would prohibit countries from weakening or failing to enforce their domestic laws in order to promote trade. It would also prohibit the trade of illegally harvested products such as timber, fish and wildlife. In addition, the bill would prevent companies from attacking common-sense environmental and public health measures in secret trade tribunals, as allowed under NAFTA.

“This Act has the potential to set straight the history of NAFTA and the WTO to encourage truly sustainable development that promises to benefit the majority of the world’s people, whether farmers or business owners, while protecting our resources for future generations.” said Margrete Strand Rangnes.

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