

Statement for Iowa Fair Trade Campaign

I support pro-America trade. When trade agreements are negotiated without real concern for workers, or when the agreements are not properly enforced, it hurts American families. I believe trade must work for middle-class Americans. Our trade deficit is at unacceptable levels. As President, I will reinvigorate America's manufacturing base, and ensure that foreign countries do not manipulate their currencies to disadvantage American goods.

The world is changing rapidly, and old assumptions about trade must be reexamined. As President, I will not enter into new trade agreements, or seek trade promotion authority, until my administration has done two things: reviewed all of our existing agreements to determine whether they are benefiting our economy and our workers; and crafted a comprehensive, pro-America trade policy that will strengthen our country in the 21st Century.

Strong, enforceable labor and environmental provisions must be a part of the core text of every trade agreement. If they are not, our workers will have to compete on an unfair playing field. That is not acceptable. As President, I will make vigorous enforcement of our agreements a priority. I will appoint a trade enforcement officer, and double the enforcement staff at office of the United States Trade Representative.

I have introduced legislation to evaluate our trade agreements every five years. And as President, I will review NAFTA and work with our trade partners to correct its shortcomings.

I will ensure that the economic benefits of trade are fairly distributed, and that workers hurt by the global economy receive the help they need. Accordingly, I will expand Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) by covering workers whose plants relocate to countries like China and India and by doubling the budget for TAA's training program. I will also expand the Health Coverage Tax Credit to ensure that displaced workers have access to quality, affordable health care.

I will make the necessary investments to ensure that the good jobs of tomorrow are created in America and stay in America. That is why I have proposed a comprehensive innovation agenda to encourage the development of new product and industries. It is also why I have proposed an energy plan that will not only help the environment, but create millions of jobs that cannot be sent overseas. I will also close tax loopholes that reward American companies when they move jobs abroad.



As President, I will protect American families from unsafe food, drugs, and toys made overseas. I have called for a single safety agency to oversee all federal food safety activities. We must hold foreign producers of drugs, toys and food to American safety requirements. I have also called for Country of Origin labeling and an increase in the number of inspectors at ports of entry and in foreign countries to verify that our safety rules are observed.