

June 27, 2006

Dear Representative/Senator:

On behalf of the millions of Americans we represent, the undersigned religious, labor, human rights, consumer, environmental, business and family farm organizations urge you to oppose the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA).

OFTA would expand the failed model of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). This model has been devastating to the U.S. industrial base, accelerating job loss and lowering living standards in the United States while exacerbating poverty and social disparities in the developing nations with which we trade.

After a contentious battle last July, CAFTA passed the House of Representatives by a single vote. Unfortunately, OFTA is nearly word-for-word identical to CAFTA.

Like NAFTA and CAFTA, OFTA fails to include any meaningful labor and environmental protections. The lack of effective labor provisions in OFTA is particularly significant in light of recent revelations of massive labor abuses in Jordan—a nation with which the United States has a free trade agreement.¹ These violations include widespread human trafficking, 20-hour workdays, and widespread failure to pay back wages. More troubling is the fact the Oman FTA contains weaker labor provisions than the Jordan FTA.

While current Omani law does not come close to meeting core International Labor Organization (ILO) standards, members of the Ways and Means Committee have been trying to encourage the Sultan of Oman to bring his nation's laws into compliance. However, as evidenced by the five-year record in Jordan, where foreign "guest workers" comprise much of the labor force – and do not speak the language – changing domestic laws is not sufficient to ensure that workers' rights are respected. Sweatshop conditions with our trading partners mean more lost jobs in the United States.

In addition, as with other recent FTAs, the Oman agreement fails to ensure that a country is obligated to implement provisions of key international environment agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

OFTA also stands to unnecessarily harm the sick and the poor. It includes unprecedented monopoly rights for large pharmaceutical corporations that extend beyond the data exclusivity protections many in Congress opposed in CAFTA. These additional protections provided in OFTA effectively forbid generic competition for extended periods and would further limit access to affordable medicines.

¹ *New York Times*, An Ugly Side of Free Trade: Sweatshops in Jordan (May 3, 2006)

OFTA also extends extraordinary foreign investor protections and rights beyond those provided in CAFTA (which in itself expanded on the NAFTA rules that resulted in 41 foreign investor challenges to U.S. health, environmental and other policies with over \$35 million in government funds paid in damages to date). OFTA would expose to challenge many U.S. government decisions about federal contract, lease or concession agreements by granting increased rights to foreign investors. The new OFTA-covered areas subject to such challenge include more natural resource contracts (such as exploration, extraction, refining, transportation, distribution, or sale); services contracts (such as power generation or distribution, water treatment or distribution, or telecommunication); and infrastructure projects (including construction of roads, bridges, canals, dams, or pipelines).

By opposing the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, Congress will send an important message to the American people and to the world: most Americans desire a new U.S. trade and globalization policy that will lift standards of living and promote connections between countries that foster goodwill, fairness, and prosperity for all.

National Organizations

AFL-CIO	International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ
Alliance for Responsible Trade	Labor Committee for Latin American Advancement
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition	Laborers' International Union of North America
Americans for Democratic Action	League of Rural Voters
Campaign for Labor Rights	Manufacturers for Fair Trade
Center for Science in the Public Interest	Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Change to Win	National Family Farm Coalition
Citizens Trade Campaign	National Farmers Union
Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office	National Lawyers Guild
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador	Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility, United Church of Christ
Communications Workers of America	Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
Defenders of Wildlife	Order of Friars Minor, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Council, English Speaking Conference
Development GAP	Presbyterian Church, (USA), Washington Office
Essential Action	Progressive Democrats of America
Food and Water Watch	Progressive States Network
Franciscan Friars, St. John the Baptist Province, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office	Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch
Friends of the Earth	Quixote Center
Global AIDS Alliance	Service Employees International Union
Global Exchange	Sierra Club
Health Global Access Project	SPEEA - Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace
IATPAAction	Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Institute for Local Self-Reliance	UNITE HERE
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers	United Food and Commercial Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers	United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	United Steelworkers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters	United Students Against Sweatshops
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers	Western Organization of Resource Councils
International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers - Communications Workers of America	

State and Local Organizations

1199 SEIU, United Healthcare Workers East
Abilene Big Country Central Labor Council
ACT UP Philadelphia
AFA-CWA Local 13500, Pittsburgh, PA
AFA-CWA Local 28023, Philadelphia, PA
AFA-CWA Local Council 5
AFSCME Council 31, IL
AFSCME Council 5, MN
AFSCME Local 34, Minneapolis, MN
AFSCME Local 66, Duluth, MN
AFSCME Local 2822, Minneapolis, MN
AFSCME Local 3342, Tampa, FL
AFTRA - Twin Cities Local, MN
Alabama AFL-CIO
Allegheny County Labor Council, PA
Alliance for Democracy, CA
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005, Minneapolis, MN
Amalgamated Transit Union Local Union 694, San Antonio, TX
American Federation of Government Employees Local 948, ME
American Federation of Teachers, Wisconsin
American Friends Service Committee - Pacific NW Region
American Friends Service Committee, Texas Arkansas,
Oklahoma Region
American Postal Workers Union Local 195, San Antonio, TX
Arizona AFL-CIO
Arkansas AFL-CIO
Ashtabula County Central Labor Council, OH
Auburn WAGE (Workers at GE) Committee, Auburn, ME
Audubon Washington
Austin Central Labor Council
BCTGM Local 264G, East Grand Forks, MN
BCTGM Local 267G, Crookston, MN
BCTGM Local 369G, Renville, MN
BCTGM Local 6, Philadelphia, PA
Boilermakers Local Union 433, Tampa, FL
Boise Central Trades and Labor Council, Idaho
Brooke-Hancock Central Labor Council, WV
Butte-Glenn Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, CA
California Coalition for Fair Trade and Human Rights
California Farmers Union
Caney Fork Headwaters Association, Pleasant Hill, TN
Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, Raleigh, NC
Casa Baltimore/Limay, MD
Central Minnesota AFL-CIO Trades and Labor Assembly, St.
Cloud, MN
Central Oregon Labor Council
Central Texas Central Labor Council
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Clintonville Community Market, Columbus, OH
Coalition for Immigrants Right at the Community Level,
York, PA
Coalition of Labor Union Women, MN
Coastal Bend Central Labor Council, Corpus Christi, TX
Comite Pro Amnistia General y Justicia Social, Seattle, WA
Communication Workers of America District 7
Communication Workers of America Local 3179, Clearwater, FL
Communication Workers of America Local 13302, Pittsburgh, PA
Communication Workers of America Local 13550, Pittsburgh, PA
Communication Workers of America Local 2107, Annapolis, MD
Communication Workers of America Local 9000, Los Angeles, CA
Communication Workers of America Local 9423, San Jose, CA
Communication Workers of America Local 9588, Colton, CA
Communication Workers of America Local 9588, Palm Springs, CA
Communication Workers of America Local Union 6143,
San Antonio, TX
Community Alliance for Global Justice, Seattle, WA
Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Davis, CA
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice, Seattle, WA
Concerned Citizens of Newport, WI
Contra Costa Central Labor Council, CA
CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Albany NY
Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice, Pleasant Hill, TN
Dakota Resource Council, ND
Dakota Rural Action, SD
Dallas Central Labor Council
Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio
Denver Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
Department for Social Concerns, Columbus Catholic Diocese, OH
Duluth Central Labor Body, AFL-CIO, MN
Economic Justice for All, NY
Education Austin, TX
Enlace International, CA
Environment Texas
Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, CA
Esperanza Center for Peace and Justice, San Antonio, TX
Five County Labor Council, PA
Florida AFL-CIO
Florida Alliance of Retired Americans
Florida Fair Trade Coalition
Florida League of United Latin American Citizens
Florida Sierra Club
Forests of the World, LLC, Durham, NC
Fresno Madera Tulare King's County Labor Council, CA
Galveston County AFL-CIO, TX
Gifford Pinchot Task Force, Olympia WA
Global Gallery, Columbus, OH
Gray Panthers of Texas
Greater Boston Labor Council
Greater Glens Falls Central Labor Council, NY
Greater Kansas City Fair Trade Coalition
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council
Hall of Fame Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Canton, OH
Harrington Investments, Napa, CA
Harris County Central Labor Council, Houston, TX
Hillsboro County Teachers Association, AFT Local 7432,
Tampa, FL
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN
Houston Globalization Forum, TX
Houston Globalization Working Group, TX

Houston Peace and Justice Center, TX
 Illinois AFL-CIO
 International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers,
 Southern Territory
 International Association of Machinists Air Transport District 143
 International Association of Machinists Airline Local 1833, MN
 International Association of Machinists District Lodge 165,
 St. Cloud, MN
 International Association of Machinists District Lodge 77,
 St. Paul, MN
 International Association of Machinists Local 1821, ME
 International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2082,
 Fort Worth, TX
 International Association of Machinists Lodge 623,
 St. Cloud, MN
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110,
 St. Paul, MN
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1768,
 Hinckley, ME
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1837,
 Manchester, ME
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2327,
 Augusta, ME
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 242,
 Minneapolis, MN
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46,
 Seattle, WA
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567,
 Portland ME
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 66,
 Pasadena, TX
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 681,
 Wichita Falls, TX
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 716,
 Houston, TX
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 824,
 Tampa, FL
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 915,
 Tampa, FL
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 520,
 Austin, TX
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 60,
 San Antonio, TX
 International Longshore and Warehouse Union Puget Sound
 District Council, WA
 International Longshore and Warehouse Union Southern
 California District Council
 Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
 IUE-CWA Local 1140, Minneapolis, MN
 Jackson Central Labor Council, TN
 Jobs With Justice of Greater Columbus, OH
 Kankakee Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO Central Body, IL
 Kansas AFL-CIO
 King County Labor Council, WA
 Kutztown Area Democratic Club, Kutztown, PA
 Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota
 Laborers Local 327, Augusta, ME
 Lehigh Valley Labor Council, PA
 LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem, PA
 Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution, Madison, WI
 Long Island Labor-Religion Coalition, NY
 Louisiana AFL-CIO
 Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State
 Maine AFL-CIO
 Maine Fair Trade Campaign
 Maine Labor Council – United Steelworkers
 Maine Labor Group on Health
 Maine Peoples Alliance
 Maine State Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989
 Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Houston, San Antonio, and
 Dallas, TX
 Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO
 Milwaukee Clean Clothes Campaign
 Minneapolis Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, MN
 Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council AFL-CIO, MN
 Minnesota AFL-CIO
 Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
 Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition
 Minnesota Farmers Union
 Minnesota State Council of the International Association of Machinists
 Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32
 Missoula Area Central Labor Council, MT
 Missouri AFL-CIO
 Montgomery County Union Council, PA
 Napa-Solano Building Trades Council, CA
 Nashville/Middle Tennessee Labor Council
 Nashville Peace and Justice Center, TN
 National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 391, ME
 National Farm Worker Ministry - Florida
 Native Forest Council, WA
 New England Joint Board, RWDSU/UFCW
 New Hampshire AFL-CIO
 New Jersey AFL-CIO
 New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 New York Metropolitan Area Joint Board UNITE HERE
 New York State AFL-CIO
 New York State Labor-Religion Coalition
 New York State United Teachers
 North Bay Central Labor Council, CA
 North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project
 North Carolina State AFL-CIO
 North Florida Central Labor Council
 North Iowa Nine Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Mason City, IA
 North Shore Labor Council, Lynn, MA
 North Texas Jobs with Justice
 North Worcester County CLC, MA
 Northeastern Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation
 Northern Kentucky Central Labor Council
 Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
 Ohio AFL-CIO
 Ohio Association of Public School Employees Local 4, AFSCME
 Ohio Conference on Fair Trade
 Ohio Environmental Council
 Ohio Farmers Union
 Ohio Federation of Teachers
 Ohio League of Conservation Voters

Ohio State University Students for Labor and Economic Justice
 Ohio Working Group on Latin America
 Omaha Federation of Labor
 Oregon AFL-CIO
 Oregon Fair Trade Coalition
 Oregon State Council of the International Association of Machinists
 Pax Christi Austin, TX
 Pax Christi Maine
 Peace Action Maine
 Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince Georges County, MD
 Peace through Inter-American Community Action, Bangor, ME
 Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, CA
 Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
 Pennsylvania Consumer Action Network
 People Organized in Defense of the Earth and her Resources,
 Austin, TX
 People Organized to Win Economic Rights, ME
 Philadelphia Area Jobs With Justice
 Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO
 Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Tacoma, WA
 Pipe Fitters Local 539, Minneapolis, MN
 Plumbers Local 377, Madison, AL
 Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, OR
 Portland Jobs With Justice, OR
 Powder River Basin Resource Council, WY
 Quaker Peace Center, Miami, FL
 Red Wing Area AFL-CIO Council, MN
 Refuge Ministries, St. Petersburg, FL
 Resource Center of the Americas, Minneapolis, MN
 Sacramento Central Labor Council, CA
 Saint Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly, AFL-CIO, MN
 San Antonio Central Labor Council, TX
 San Bernardino/Riverside Central Labor Council, CA
 San Diego Fair Trade Coalition, CA
 San Francisco Labor Council, CA
 San Mateo Central Labor Council, CA
 Santa Clara-San Benito Building Trades Council, CA
 Seattle CISPES, WA
 Service Employees International Union Local 105, Denver, CO
 Service Employees International Union Local 503, OR
 Service Employees International Union Minnesota State Council
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 54, Houston, TX
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 67, San Antonio, TX
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 15, FL
 Sierra Club, Lonestar Chapter, TX
 Sierra Club, North Star Chapter, MN
 Simply Living, Columbus, OH
 Snohomish County Labor Council, WA
 Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, San Antonio, TX
 South Bay Central Labor Council, CA
 South Dakota AFL-CIO
 South Eastern Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
 South Florida Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
 South Jersey Progressive Democrats of America
 South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign, Olympia, WA
 Southeast Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Rochester, MN
 Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network, North Carolina
 Southern Dakota County Labor Council, MN
 Southern Maine Central Labor Council
 Southern Oregon Central Labor Council
 Southern Tier Labor-Religion Coalition, NY
 Spokane Labor Council, WA
 St. Austin Parish Social Justice Ministry, Austin, TX
 St. Croix Valley Central Labor Council, MN
 St. Paul Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, MN
 St. Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly, MN
 St. Paul Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 34, MN
 Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, FL
 Steuben/Livingston Central Labor Council of New York
 Student Global AIDS Campaign - UNC Chapel Hill, NC
 Sweatshop Watch, CA
 Tarrant County Central Labor Council
 Teamsters Joint Council 42, CA
 Teamsters Joint Council 7, CA
 Teamsters Local 340, ME
 Teamsters Local 624, Santa Rosa, CA
 Teamsters Local 67, San Antonio, TX
 Teamsters Local 70, Oakland, CA
 Teamsters Local 71, Charlotte, NC
 Teamsters Local 745, Dallas, TX
 Teamsters Local 952, Orange, CA
 Temple Beth Am Social Action, Seattle, WA
 TERN/Tennessee Economic Renewal Network
 Texas AFL-CIO
 Texas Fair Trade Coalition
 Texas Farmers Union
 Texas Federation of Teachers
 Texas Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
 Texas State Association of Electrical Workers
 Texas State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
 Thomas Merton Center, Pittsburgh, PA
 Tri-Counties Central Labor Council, Ventura, CA
 Twin Cities Religion and Labor Network, MN
 TX UAW State CAP Council
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, ME
 UNITE HERE Chicago and Midwest Region Joint Board
 UNITE HERE Southern Regional Joint Board
 UNITE HERE Local 21, Rochester MN
 UNITE HERE Local 251, Southwest Regional Joint Board
 UNITE HERE Local 486, ME
 UNITE HERE Local 99, Duluth MN
 United Association Local 123, Tampa, FL
 United Auto Workers Local 879, St. Paul, MN
 United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council
 United Auto Workers Texas State CAP Council
 United Auto Workers Region 2B
 United Auto Workers Region 9
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776,
 Plymouth Meeting, PA
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445, MA/ME
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, Seattle, WA
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 408, TX
 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789,
 South St. Paul, MN
 United Steelworkers District 1
 United Steelworkers District 2

United Steelworkers District 11
United Steelworkers Local 11-418, Cottage Grove, MN
United Steelworkers Local 1157-L, Tyler, TX
United Steelworkers Local 1188, ME
United Steelworkers Local 13-423, Port Arthur, TX
United Steelworkers Local 1-36, ME
United Steelworkers Local 1-9, ME
United Steelworkers Local 2002, Minneapolis, MN
United Steelworkers Local 261, ME
United Steelworkers Local 264, St. Paul, MN
United Steelworkers Local 4134, Lonestar, TX
United Steelworkers Local 460G, Kasota, MN
United Steelworkers Local 4895, Rockdale, TX
United Steelworkers Local 5022, Corpus Christi, TX
United Steelworkers Local 5613, Amarillo, TX
United Steelworkers Local 662, Rosemount, MN
United Steelworkers Local 6803, Albert Lea, MN
United Steelworkers Local 7090, Gilbert, MN
United Steelworkers Local 746-L, Tyler, TX
United Steelworkers Local 850, Charlotte, NC
United Steelworkers Local 9984, FL
United University Professions, NY
University Presbyterian Church Peace and Justice Committee,
Tuscaloosa, AL

Upper East Tennessee Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO,
Johnson City, TN
Upper Midwest Witness for Peace
Utah AFL-CIO
Vermont AFL-CIO
Veterans for Peace Chapter 27, MN
Veterans for Peace, Huntsville, AL
Veterans for Peace, ME
Waldo County Peace & Justice, ME
Waldo County Progressives, ME
Washington Association of Churches
Washington Fair Trade Coalition
Washington Farmers Union
Washington State Labor Council
WashTech/CWA Local 37083, WA
West Central Florida Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
West Virginia AFL-CIO
White River Central Labor Council, Bloomington, IN
Wisconsin AFL-CIO
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
Wisconsin Farmers Union
Witness for Peace - Upper Midwest
Witness for Peace - Northwest
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom,
Maine Chapter
Working Families Win, Southeast Pennsylvania