

# Hoffa Says Democratic Leadership Out of Touch on Trade

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 -- Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa today said that Democratic leaders pushing for a Peru Free Trade Agreement are out of touch with the American people.

Congress is expected to vote on the bill Wednesday.

"It's amazing they would have the audacity to try to pass this," Hoffa said. "It's like NAFTA, CAFTA, PNTR, Vietnam. These are disasters for American workers."

"What I can't understand is why does the Democratic leadership want to give George Bush a victory?" he said.

Hoffa joined UNITE HERE President Bruce Raynor and Democratic Reps. Marcy Kaptur and Betty Sutton of Ohio, Phil Hare of Illinois and Dale Kildee of Michigan in a conference call with reporters today to denounce the proposed trade deal.

Hoffa said the freshmen representatives likely to vote against the bill understand the trend in public opinion against trade.

"Everybody knows the '06 election was about trade," Hoffa said.

Hoffa pointed to a recent Wall Street Journal poll that found 62 percent of Republicans think free trade is bad for the economy.

"Another free trade agreement is exactly what we don't need," said Hoffa, who earlier today convinced several representatives to vote against the bill.

Founded in 1903, the Teamsters Union represents more than 1.4 million hardworking men and women in the United States and Canada.