

H.R. 6180/S. 3083:

The TRADE Act

(Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act)

TRADE Act Addresses American Public's Demand for Change During Presidential Campaign With a New Way Forward on Trade, Globalization

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine) have worked with an array of labor, environmental, consumer, faith and family farm organizations to develop a bill that presents a progressive vision of what a good trade agreement must and must not include. This initiative sets forth **what we are for** – shutting down the bogus claim that we are anti-trade or have no alternative vision because we oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), World Trade Organization (WTO) and similar damaging trade agreements.

What does the bill do?

The TRADE Act requires a **review** of existing trade pacts, including NAFTA, the WTO and other major pacts, and sets forth **what must and must not be included in future trade pacts**. It also provides for the **renegotiation** of existing trade agreements and describes the key elements of **a new trade negotiating and approval mechanism to replace Fast Track** that would enhance Congress' role in the formative aspects of agreements and promote future deals that could enjoy broad support among the American public.

The TRADE Act shifts the debate towards discussing **a new trade and globalization model**. It moves beyond repeatedly fighting against expansions of the old failed model and sets a marker for where discussion should start with a new Congress and president in 2009. One of our nation's greatest challenges is to create new rules for globalization that ensure economic security and the creation of quality jobs here, while offering opportunities for sustainable development in poor countries. Such rules would counter rising income inequality and the threats our current policies pose to national security, our shared global environment, public health and safety, and democratic accountability.

We must take action *now* to shape the future debate. The TRADE Act recognizes the Democratic presidential candidates' calls to renegotiate some pacts and brings Congress into this process.

The TRADE ACT includes:

Section 2: Lists of which trade agreements must be reviewed and definitions of the labor and environmental standards all agreements must contain.

Section 3: Requirements for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive review of existing major trade agreements by June 10, 2010, including economic outcomes in the U.S. and abroad and various security and social indicators. The TRADE Act also requires an analysis of how the current agreements measure up against the detailed description in the bill of what must and must not be included in future U.S. trade agreements.

Section 4: Labor, environment, food and product safety standards; national security exceptions; and trade remedy and federalism protections that must be included in all American trade pacts. Because NAFTA-model

trade agreements extend far beyond traditional trade matters, this section also sets requirements with respect to public services, farm policy, investment, government procurement, and affordable medicines.

Section 5: Requirement for the president to submit renegotiation plans to remedy the gaps identified by the Comptroller General between our current pacts and the criteria for good agreements listed in section 4 *prior* to negotiating new agreements and prior to congressional consideration of pending agreements.

Section 6: Establishment of a committee comprised of the chairs and ranking members of each committee whose jurisdiction is implicated by today’s expansive “trade” agreements to review the president’s plan for renegotiations.

Section 7: A sense-of-the-Congress provision that sets out criteria for a new mechanism to replace the Fast Track negotiating process. To obtain agreements that benefit a wider array of interests, this new process includes Congress setting readiness criteria to select future negotiating partners; mandatory negotiating objectives based on the Section 4 criteria of what must be and must not be in future trade agreements; and the requirements that Congress must certify that the objectives were met, and then vote on an agreement *before* it can be signed. These criteria for a new trade negotiating mechanism to replace Fast Track have been supported in AFL-CIO, Change to Win and National Farmers Union resolutions.

TRADE Act support:

AFL-CIO
Change to Win
Communication Workers of America
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
United Steelworkers
UNITE-HERE

United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
Friends of the Earth
Sierra Club
National Farmers Union
National Family Farm Coalition
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Americans for Democratic Action
Public Citizen
Citizens Trade Campaign

House Original Cosponsors:

1. Collin Peterson	15. Danny Davis	29. Betty Sutton	43. <i>Walter Jones</i>
2. Nick Rahall	16. Dale Kildee	30. Jesse Jackson	44. Tammy Baldwin
3. John Conyers	17. Raul Grijalva	31. Dan Lipinski	45. Marcy Kaptur
4. Robert Brady	18. Lynn Woolsey	32. Keith Ellison	46. Dennis Kucinich
5. Bob Filner	19. Peter DeFazio	33. Gene Green	47. Carol Shea-Porter
6. John Murtha	20. Heath Shuler	34. Al Green	48. Mazie Hirono
7. Rosa DeLauro	21. Bruce Braley	35. Hilda Solis	49. Michael Arcuri
8. Maurice Hinchey	22. Dave Loebsack	36. Ben Chandler	50. Patrick Murphy
9. Bill Delahunt	23. John Hall	37. Carolyn Kilpatrick	51. Steve Kagen
10. Jan Schakowsky	24. Tim Ryan	38. Gwen Moore	52. Charlie Wilson
11. Linda Sanchez	25. Nancy Boyda	39. Mike Doyle	53. Frank Pallone
12. Tim Holden	26. Hank Johnson	40. Emmanuel Cleaver	
13. Mike Ross	27. John Sarbanes	41. Tom Allen	Sponsor:
14. Peter Visclosky	28. Phil Hare	42. Stephen Lynch	Michael Michaud

Senate Original Cosponsors:

1. Byron Dorgan 2. Russ Feingold 3. Bob Casey 4. Sheldon Whitehouse **Sponsor:** Sherrod Brown