



Support the 2009 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act

June 8, 2009

Dear Representative:

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby welcomes with enthusiasm the introduction of the **2009 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act** by Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME). The TRADE Act was first introduced in the 110th Congress and was co-sponsored by eighty of your colleagues in Congress.

The TRADE Act maps a fair way forward on trade. It promises a comprehensive review of existing trade agreements, such as NAFTA, the WTO and CAFTA and establishes standards for what must and must not be included in future trade pacts. It also lays out the key elements of a new trade negotiating and approval mechanism to replace Fast Track. This mechanism ensures the constitutional right of Congress to regulate commerce.

NETWORK defines trade as an instrument of development for both signatories to the agreement. The negative impacts of NAFTA, CAFTA and subsequent agreements on struggling communities in this country—through job losses, downward pressure on wages and negative impacts on food and consumer safety and our environment—have often been recognized and rightly so.

While many NETWORK members work among people who are economically impoverished in the United States, others are missioned in developing countries and see firsthand the negative impacts of current U.S. trade policies in the communities where they live. They see how our trade policies have particularly hurt people who depend on farming as the key to subsistence. The sale of subsidized U.S. crops to developing countries has pushed thousands of family farmers off their lands, creating poverty and forcing migration. The TRADE Act will begin to correct such imbalances in our nation's trade policy.

As a member of the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment, NETWORK sees the TRADE Act as a way to foster trade policies that put people first and further genuine social and economic development for our neighbors around the world while preserving and creating good jobs here at home. Its provisions strike a balance between creating a predictable structure for international trade and safeguarding the policy space necessary for governments to foster and secure economic, social and human development for all their citizens.

NETWORK urges you to support these goals and sign on as an original co-sponsor of the 2009 TRADE Act. To join on as a co-sponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office (kim.glas@mail.house.gov)

Sincerely,

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ
Lobbyist
cpinkerton@networklobby.org
202-347-9797 x. 205

Kelly Trout
Field Associate
kt trout@networklobby.org
202-347-9797 x. 212