



May 19th, 2010

Honorable Representative Quigley:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to reiterate our requests that you cosponsor the Trade Reform, Development, Accountability and Employment (TRADE) Act – H.R. 3012.

As you are aware, past trade deals like NAFTA have failed. Unfair trade has hurt working families, devastated the environment, bankrupted family farmers, exposed consumers to unsafe food, toys and other products, stifled economic development in poorer countries, and undermined our democratic laws by subjecting them to extra-constitutional tribunals. The majority of Americans reject this failed approach to global economic engagement.

The TRADE Act paves the path forward – towards a fair trade model we can all support.

Organizations as diverse as ours all agree that the TRADE Act is our best hope to create sustainable global economy that benefits the majority of people and respects the environment. Opponents of change who have benefited from the damages inflicted by unfair trade, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have sought to undermine this growing consensus, and we implore you not to be fooled. The TRADE Act presents a measured, common-sense approach to refining our engagement in the global economy, not withdrawing from it.

In the past year, all our organizations have contacted you, many of us on multiple occasions, voicing our support for trade reform; such is its importance to our members and constituents. We sincerely urge you to fully consider the substance and merits of this bill, and to become a cosponsor.

Please inform us of your final decision on this matter by responding to Bill Looby at the Illinois AFL-CIO (bill@ilafclcio.org or fax (217) 492-2812), who will relay your response to other signatories.

Sincerely,

Michael Carrigan, President
Illinois AFL-CIO

Jose Gudino, Illinois Sub-District Director
United Steelworkers, District 7

Gary Cozette, Executive Director
Chicago Religious Leadership Network

Mark Maher, Political Director
Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters

Liz Van Der Woude, President
Communications Workers of America, Local 4250

Phil Gruber, General Vice President - Midwest Territory
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

Dennis D. Williams, Director
United Auto Workers, Region 4

Lonnie Stephenson, International Representative
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, District 6

Robyn Skrebes, Upper Midwest Regional Organizer
Witness for Peace

Rocco Terranova, President & Business Manager
Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local 73