



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

## **Support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act of 2008**

June 10, 2008

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our more than 1.3 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club urges you to support the *2008 Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act* (H.R. 6180)— a groundbreaking piece of legislation that paves the way for international trade that is truly clean, green and fair.

Specifically, the TRADE Act builds upon the significant progress made in the environmental chapter of the U.S. – Peru Free Trade Agreement through inclusion of the following principles for the United States and any country with whom a trade agreement is negotiated:

- Required adherence to all Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which the potential member country is already party
- A prohibition against the trade in illegally harvested products such as timber, fish and wildlife.
- A prohibition against the weakening or failure to enforce domestic laws as a means of facilitating trade or investment
- The exclusion of investor rights that allow companies to attack common-sense environmental and public health measures in secret trade tribunals, as allowed under NAFTA.
- A revision of investor protections to ensure that private companies enjoy no greater rights than U.S. citizens
- The establishment of new dispute resolution provisions guaranteeing public access to proceedings and basic due-process as protected by the Constitution
- A mandatory review and potential renegotiation of existing trade agreements that fail to adequately protect workers and the environment

The TRADE ACT will not only prevent the implementation of further un-balanced trade agreements and the job losses and environmental degradation they entail, it will also ensure the review of all existing agreements. Through this framework, agreements that fail to achieve essential social objectives, including labor and human rights, as well as responsible natural resource consumption will require re-negotiation.

Additionally, the TRADE Act will ensure that our current trade agreements achieve true economic progress, including job creation, better wages, and equitable development around the world. Trade Agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) that have led to the outsourcing of hundreds of thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs to countries with less stringent labor and environmental standards will require review and re-negotiation through the lens of economic justice, healthy communities and environmental protection.

Carefully crafted trade agreements stand to increase the standard of living and health of our environment in the U.S. and around the world. We hope you will join us in supporting this blueprint for better trade

agreements. To sign on as a cosponsor, please contact Kim Glas in Rep. Michaud's office ([kim.glas@mail.house.gov](mailto:kim.glas@mail.house.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Pope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" and the last name "Pope" clearly distinguishable.

Carl Pope  
Executive Director, Sierra Club