

# The Trade Act (HR 3012)

Dear Congresswoman Schwartz,

The Trade Reform, Accountability and Employment (TRADE) Act, if passed, would take four major steps toward a more just U.S. trade model:

**1. Evaluate existing FTAs.** The Act would require a public report assessing NAFTA and CAFTA's impacts on signatory countries' employment and wage levels, access to health care and water, cost of essential medicines, and compliance with labor and environmental standards, among other criteria.

**2. Renegotiate existing FTAs.** The text of NAFTA and CAFTA would have to be transformed so as to meet explicitly outlined requirements. Among other changes, the renegotiated FTAs would have to:

- Allow all signatory governments to take measures against agricultural dumping so as to ensure income stability for small-scale farmers
- Require signatory governments to actually enforce core labor, environmental, and human rights standards
- Revamp any intellectual property provisions that tend to increase the cost of essential medicines in signatory countries
- Delete all requirements to privatize or deregulate key services such as health care, education, or water
- Eliminate the investor-state dispute resolution process in which corporations can sue governments for laws construed as barriers to trade (i.e. NAFTA's Chapter 11)

**3. Impose a moratorium on future FTAs.** The Act would require that the President submit to Congress a plan to renegotiate existing FTAs at least three months before the negotiation or implementation of any new FTA. This prerequisite of renegotiation spells an effective moratorium on further FTAs.

**4. Abolish Fast Track.** The Act would discard the anti-democratic Fast Track provisions that currently restrict Congressional debate and amendments on trade agreements. In its place, the Act prescribes a more democratic process that would bolster Congressional oversight of any future trade agreements.

On behalf of all the thousands of members of Witness for Peace, we ask you, Congresswoman Schwartz, to support the Trade Reform, Accountability and Employment (TRADE) Act. Please add your name as a cosponsor to HR 3012. Contact Nora Todd in Representative Mike Michaud's office ([nora.todd@mail.house.gov](mailto:nora.todd@mail.house.gov)).

*Witness for Peace is a Washington, DC, based non-profit organization that monitors and seeks to change U.S. military and economic policy in Latin America in support of peace, justice, and sustainable economies in the region.*