



BACKGROUND:

Iowa Loses Good Jobs w/ Corporate Trade Deals

- **Iowa lost more than 20,000 manufacturing jobs from 2000-2006**, according to the Iowa Policy Project's September 2007 State of Working Iowa report. The report shows that these were good jobs, providing a living wage of \$41,400 per year with benefits such as health care.¹
- **Overall wages are down, and new jobs pay thousands less with fewer providing benefits.** Furthermore, wages in those sectors of the Iowa economy that are growing pay close to \$9,000 less per year on average than manufacturing.²
- **Iowa has lost roughly 12,000 jobs directly due to unfair trade rules. Since Congress passed NAFTA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1993 and 1994**, the Department of Labor recorded roughly 12,109 trade-related job losses in Iowa under its narrow and difficult-to-qualify-for trade adjustment assistance program. These include 2,072 at the Maytag plant in Newton and 582 at Intier Automotive Seating in 2006, 253 in Gillette in 2002, and 300 at the Ertl Company in 1996, among many others.³
- **The U.S. has lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs during the NAFTA-WTO period.**⁴ The non-partisan Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that Iowa could have created tens of thousands of good jobs (and the United States many millions) with a different trade model that emphasized a balancing of the over \$700 billion trade deficit.⁵
- **Since Fast Track was enacted in 1974, real hourly wages for the average American worker have increased by only a nickel, despite a near doubling of worker productivity.**⁶ Fast Track – the negotiating process that brought us NAFTA, the WTO and other bad trade deals was conceived by President Nixon as a way to grab Congress' constitutional authority over trade policy.
- **All working families are impacted by unfair corporate trade deals, not just those that lose jobs.** Union and non-union workers live under constant threat of job offshoring and have less leverage to bargain for living wages and benefits. This hurts not only workers that lose their jobs, but workers whose jobs cannot be offshored.⁷

ASK THE CANDIDATES!

What's their *specific* plan for change? Don't forget to let us know the answers.

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¹ "The State of Working Iowa 2007: A Look at Growing and Declining Sectors," Iowa Policy Project, September 2007.

² Ibid.

³ Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Database, accessible at www.citizen.org.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey, 2007.

⁵ Lawrence Mishel, Jared Bernstein, and Sylvia Allegretto, *State of Working America 2006-2007*, (Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute, 2006), Table 3.30 at 175; Robert E. Scott, Carlos Salas, and Bruce Campbell, "Revisiting NAFTA: Still Not Working for North America's Workers," Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper No. 173, Sept. 28, 2006, at 10.

⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2007.

⁷ L. Josh Bivens, "Globalization and American Wages: Today and Tomorrow," Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper #196, October 2007.



Iowa Fair Trade Campaign: Victory in 2008!

The Iowa Fair Trade Campaign helps facilitate broad-based grassroots activism for a new, fair trade model.

The Race to the Bottom: The NAFTA/World Trade Organization (WTO) model is a proven failure. Iowa has lost thousands of jobs because these agreements reward companies that take jobs offshore wherever they find the lowest wages and the weakest environmental regulations. Meanwhile, wages stagnate and workers face the constant threat of having their jobs sent overseas. Current unfair trade rules hurt Iowa's family farmers by creating an uneven playing field that rewards the unsustainable practices of agribusiness and factory farms.

But We Are Winning: Fair Trade candidates won big in the 2006 Congressional elections, including here in Iowa. Current WTO talks are stalled. With momentum on our side, the election of the next president will likely prove the best hope in a generation to leave behind the NAFTA/WTO model forever.

A Whole New, Fair Model, and Nothing Less! We need candidates committed to reviewing and possibly renegotiating corporate trade deals like NAFTA and the WTO, to replacing Fast Track with a model allowing increased negotiating power to elected Members of Congress, and to implementing trade policies to bring our trade deficit back into balance. We will engage candidates to make specific commitments and to promise big changes that will put an end to the race to the bottom, for good!

Fight for Fair Trade in '08: The Iowa Fair Trade Campaign will question candidates at their public appearances, hold its own educational or visibility events, and engage the press to highlight how trade affects Iowa. *Help us turn up the pressure by volunteering to ask a tough question at a candidate event, or setting up a presentation or event with your union, church group, friends or neighbors.*

Straight Talk on Trade! Suggested Candidate Questions:

1. NAFTA has failed for the US and our trading partners. It has sent family-supporting jobs offshore and fuels environmental damage. NAFTA grants extra rights to investors, bans Buy America initiatives, and limits our ability to ensure the safety of children's toys or the food we eat. *Will you review and potentially renegotiate NAFTA to fix or remove these anti-democratic provisions?*
2. Fast Track is the Nixon-era model still used to negotiate failed trade arrangements like NAFTA and the WTO. It concentrates trade-negotiating power in a small agency where corporate lobbyists have set the agenda away from democratic oversight. Since Fast Track was enacted, we have run a steady and growing trade deficit and wages for American workers have been stagnant. *Will you commit to a new trade-negotiating model that allows our elected Congress increased negotiating power and authority?*
3. The failing "Doha Round" WTO talks seek to expand corporate investor rights and liberalize services – including possible privatization of public goods like education and water utilities. *Will your administration walk out of the Doha talks, and instead champion a new round of WTO negotiations that seeks to remove the many unfair and anti-democratic provisions?*

Don't Forget to Take Notes and Report the Candidates' Answers!
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