

TRADE

DeFazio has been a leader in fighting "free" trade agreements that have led to massive job loss and job dislocation, the withering of the U.S. manufacturing base, soaring trade deficits (\$439 billion in 2003 alone), and the erosion of U.S. sovereignty, among other problems.

He was part of the team in the House that defeated legislation to grant "fast track" trade authority to President Clinton. He also led the fight against giving President George W. Bush "fast track" trading authority.

He helped lead the opposition to "permanent normal trade relations" (PNTR) for China. He also opposed NAFTA and the creation of the WTO and has sponsored bipartisan legislation to require the withdrawal of the U.S. from NAFTA.

Despite his opposition to the WTO, DeFazio was selected by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt to serve as a congressional delegate to the World Trade Organization ministerial in Seattle in November 1999.

He introduced legislation to establish a non-partisan Congressional Trade Office, to help Congress develop its own institutional expertise on trade matters in order to better evaluate the results of the Administration's trade policies.

DeFazio authored legislation, which became law in 1998, to establish an Emergency Commission to End the Trade Deficit. The Commission issued its final report in November, 2000.

"DeFazio's got it exactly right on two issues and we want to sound off about it. DeFazio is unequivocally opposed to granting President Bush 'fast track' trade negotiating authority...Both times DeFazio went against the herd – in the interest of the people and the Constitution of the United States."

Coquille Valley Sentinel, 11/21/01

"He's against NAFTA because the economies of the United States and Mexico are just too unequal for unlimited trade to work without dragging down U.S. workers. Developments suggest he is right about that, too."

Democrat Herald, 9/7/01

"We applaud Peter DeFazio for standing up to the corporate interests and opposing the normalization of trade relations with China."

Oregon AFL-CIO, 5/24/00

"We particularly applaud [DeFazio's] leadership in fighting trade policies and fast-track legislation that are, at the core, anti-labor and anti-environment."

Eugene Weekly, 10/22/98

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004):

▶ **DeFazio provided detailed critiques of two bilateral trade agreements with Chile and Singapore**, highlighting in particular the inadequate labor protections, the provisions that granted foreign investors the ability to overturn U.S. public health and safety regulations, and the impact the agreements would have on the U.S. trade deficit. The Chile and Singapore deals are serving as models for the Bush Administration's effort to expand NAFTA to Central America in 2004 and the entire Western Hemisphere in 2005, both deals DeFazio opposes as he opposed the original NAFTA deal. Although both the Chile and Singapore agreements were approved by Congress, the 155 votes against the Singapore deal and the 156 votes against the Chile deal that DeFazio helped to gather were far larger than expected by independent analysts.

▶ **Videx, a Corvallis-based manufacturer, reported to DeFazio that one of its product lines had been counterfeited by a Chinese company**, which caused Videx's sales in China to drop from \$1.2 million a year to \$200,000. **In response, DeFazio coordinated letters to the Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative that were signed by Representative Hooley and Senators Wyden and Smith urging the Administration to use every tool at its disposal, including bringing the situation to the attention of high-level Chinese officials and filing a complaint at the World Trade Organization against China for violating its intellectual property commitments.** DeFazio continues to monitor this situation. To date, the Administration has raised this issue with counterparts in China, but has not been willing to go beyond words to actually file a trade complaint at the WTO.

▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3228, legislation to repeal preferential access to the U.S. market for China.

▶ DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 2879, legislation to repeal fast-track trade negotiating authority for the president. If enacted, this legislation would slow down the consideration of trade agreements and allow congress to amend them to preserve U.S. jobs and protect U.S. workers.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002):

▶ **Successfully pressured President Bush to release the draft text of the agreement to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)** by expanding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the entire Western Hemisphere. DeFazio coordinated congressional efforts to liberate the FTAA text with those of dozens of labor, environment, farm, and human rights organizations. **The release of the FTAA text is the first time the text of a major trade agreement was released to the public this early in the negotiations.**

▶ **Authored the bipartisan "Softwood Lumber Fair Competition Act" (H.R. 2181) along with Representative Charlie Norwood (R-GA).** H.R. 2181 would require the President to impose tariffs and surcharges, or negotiate a voluntary export restraint agreement with Canada in

order to stop the unfair subsidies received by Canadian producers. The DeFazio legislation was endorsed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, the NW Ecosystem Alliance, and the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment. In response to a case filed by the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports, the Bush Administration has imposed duties, like those called for in H.R. 2181, of up to 32 percent.

▶ **Authored H.R. 3422, legislation to establish a Congressional Trade Office (CTO).** The U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission (created by legislation authored by DeFazio in 1998) recommended the creation of a CTO, modeled on the Congressional Budget Office, to provide non-partisan, expert analysis on trade issues.

▶ Worked as a member of Minority Whip David Bonior's whip team against fast track trade negotiating authority for the President. DeFazio takes seriously Congress' constitutional duty to "regulate commerce with foreign nations" and considers fast track an inappropriate delegation of authority to the Executive Branch. He helped defeat fast track for President Clinton in 1998. The final vote was 215-214 in favor of fast track for President Bush.

▶ DeFazio is the lead cosponsor of H.R. 1973, the "Integrity of the United States Courts Act of 2001," legislation introduced by Representative Norwood (R-GA). H.R. 1973 is intended to address misinterpretations of U.S. trade laws by the secret binational panels that hear complaints under NAFTA. This legislation would allow any party the option of appealing a NAFTA panel ruling to the U.S. Court of International Trade. This would help address some of the constitutional questions of the tribunals set up under NAFTA Chapter 19.

▶ DeFazio is a member of the bipartisan House Cuba Working Group, which contains more than 40 Members of the House, equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. Among the goals of the working group are lifting the food and medicine embargo against Iraq to create markets for U.S. goods and lifting the travel ban against U.S. citizens visiting Cuba.

▶ Received the **Fair Trade for Our Future Award** presented by the Oregon Fair Trade Coalition for his commitment to working families, the environment, and family farmers.

In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)

▶ One of the leaders in the House in the attempt to defeat legislation to grant permanent most-favored nation status to China.

▶ DeFazio was also the lead Democrat on the floor during consideration of legislation, which he favored, to withdraw from the World Trade Organization.

▶ Received a superior rating on the U.S. Business and Industry Council's trade report card Included on the USBIC's honor role for 2000. Honor role members demonstrate a commitment to defending the integrity and vitality of the American economy.

In the 105th Congress (1997-1998)

- ▶ Author of H.R.2651, a bill to establish an Emergency Commission to End the Trade Deficit. This bill established a panel to examine the failures of U.S. trade policy and suggest policy changes. The bill became law on May 1, 1998 as part of H.R.3579, the fiscal year 1998 supplemental appropriations bill and the panel issued its conclusions on November 14, 2000. DeFazio secured the appointment of Ken Lewis, an Oregon businessman, to the panel.
- ▶ Played lead role in defeat of President Clinton's Fast Track trade initiative

In the 104th Congress (1995-1996):

- ▶ Author of H.R. 499, bipartisan legislation to require the withdrawal of the U.S. from NAFTA.

In the 100th Congress (1987-1988):

- ▶ Author of H.R. 3684, a bill to amend the Buy American Act to include services. For example, the bill would prohibit a foreign construction firm from bidding on federally financed projects when that firm's government prohibits foreign firms from competing in its own markets. The bill was included in the 1987 Omnibus Trade Bill, H.R.4848, which was signed into law on August 23, 1988.