

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

As the Chairs of the Populist Caucus, the House Trade Working Group, and the Progressive Caucus, we write to bring to your attention our *American Jobs First Platform*, and to request your support for this important initiative.

As you know, the recession has been devastating to American workers. Despite some recent improvements, the unemployment rate remains high and hundreds of thousands of Americans lost their jobs last year. We commend and thank you for your strong leadership during these tough economic times, but we believe that we can do more to put Americans back to work and to put them on a level playing field with workers in other countries.

Unfortunately, free trade agreements (FTAs) like NAFTA and CAFTA have decimated the American manufacturing sector, caused the loss of millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs, and contributed to our current economic and unemployment problems. However, despite the detrimental effects of our current trade policy, both the Bush Administration and the Obama Administration have attempted to push forward with more of the same, including Bush-negotiated FTAs with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea.

Also, as you know, U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk has notified Congress that the Administration intends to engage in an Asia-Pacific trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. We believe these talks present an opportunity to develop a new, fair trade model and to incorporate into the agreement the standards outlined in H.R. 3012, the *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment (TRADE) Act*. Our focus in these talks – and in any other trade-related initiatives – should be on preserving and creating jobs in the United States, not passing another FTA that will result in jobs being shipped overseas.

We support four bills introduced in the 111th Congress which would require the United States to make an honest and comprehensive assessment of our current trade policies and set us on a path towards a new, improved model for

for trade agreements, reducing the trade deficit, and reinvigorating American manufacturing:

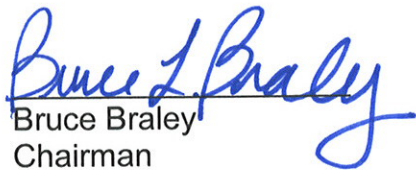
- **H.R. 3012, the *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment (TRADE) Act***, would require a comprehensive GAO review of existing major trade pacts and spell out what must be included in trade agreements, including core standards on labor, the environment, food and product safety, agriculture, human rights, currency anti-manipulation, national security, procurement, and investment, and also what *must not* be included in FTAs, including Buy American bans, anti-sweatshop rule bans, and new rights for foreign investors to promote offshoring. The bill also ensures strong enforcement of these standards, and would require the President to submit renegotiation plans for current trade agreements so that they include these core provisions *before* Congressional consideration of additional agreements. We believe this bill would help reverse the negative effects of job-killing trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA and would ensure that both our current *and* future trade agreements are fair and put American workers on a level playing field.
- **H.R. 1875, the *End the Trade Deficit Act***, would establish the Emergency Commission to End the Trade Deficit to document the causes and consequences of the trade deficit and to develop a plan to eliminate the trade deficit within the next 10 years. This bill would also place a moratorium on new FTAs until the Commission has issued a final report and Congress has conducted hearings on the Commission recommendations to end the trade deficit. The elimination of the trade deficit by 2019 would support millions of additional U.S. manufacturing jobs.
- **H.R. 4692, the *National Manufacturing Strategy Act*** would require the Administration to convene an interagency Manufacturing Strategy Task Force to examine the current domestic and international environment for U.S. manufacturing and to develop a National Manufacturing Strategy that includes recommendations to sustain and increase employment, increase global competitiveness, and increase resilience to global economic trends in the U.S. manufacturing sector. This bill seeks to proactively create and sustain good American manufacturing jobs.
- **H.R. 4678, the *Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act*** would require foreign manufacturers doing business in the U.S. to identify a registered agent authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the manufacturer. Registering an agent would constitute an acceptance of jurisdiction of the state in which the agent is located.

We support this legislation, and believe that these bills should be the focus of any trade-related action in the 111th Congress.

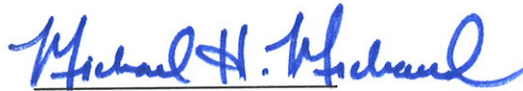
Please find attached our *American Jobs First Platform*, signed by members of the Populist Caucus, the House Trade Working Group, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. We look forward to working with you to move forward on this important initiative to aid our economic recovery and ensure that our trade and other economic policies preserve and create jobs for American workers and benefit American families.

Thank you again for your leadership and for your attention to this initiative.

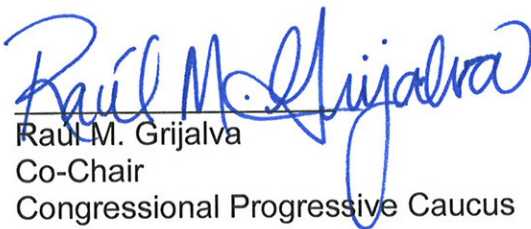
Sincerely,



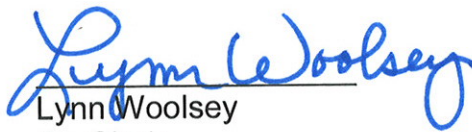
Bruce Braley
Chairman
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Mike Michaud
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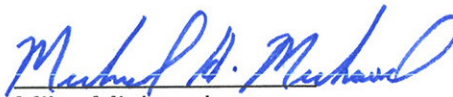
AMERICAN JOBS FIRST PLATFORM

As members of the Populist Caucus, the House Trade Working Group, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we support legislation to require the United States to make an honest and comprehensive assessment of our current trade policies and to set us on a path towards a new, improved model for trade agreements, reducing the trade deficit, reinvigorating American manufacturing and adequately protecting consumers from products made in foreign countries. We support the following legislation and believe that these four bills should be the focus of any trade-related action in the 111th Congress:

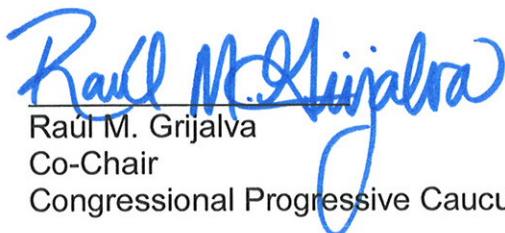
- 1.) H.R. 3012, the *Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act*, to renegotiate current major free trade agreements and establish mandatory core standards to be included in future agreements to ensure that our trade agreements preserve and create American jobs
- 2.) H.R. 1875, the *End the Trade Deficit Act*, to examine and take concrete steps towards the elimination of the trade deficit
- 3.) H.R. 4692, the *National Manufacturing Strategy Act*, to develop a National Manufacturing Strategy to sustain and create good American manufacturing jobs
- 4.) H.R. 4678, the *Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act*, to require foreign manufacturers doing business in the U.S. to identify a registered agent authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the manufacturer.



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Larry Kessell

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Keith Ellis

Marcy Kaptur

Bob Fisher

Gene Blackman

Joe Schatz

David Lipinski

Steve Kagen_{MA}

Carol Shea-Power

T. Power
