

## **RESOLUTION ON TRADE POLICY: A Fair Way Forward**

**Whereas** trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have given multi-national corporations sweeping powers to challenge signatory nations' labor, environmental, occupational, and food safety standards and to strike down democratically enacted laws; and

**Whereas** at least 3,000,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1994 as a direct result of the NAFTA trade model, while poorer nations compete in a "race to the bottom" – attracting U.S. foreign investment by offering the lowest wages and weakest worker and environmental protections; and

**Whereas** a majority of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007 voted against another NAFTA-model trade deal, the Peru Free Trade Agreement, and

**Whereas** such trade deals encourage below-production-cost dumping of agricultural products on world markets, to the detriment of farmers and rural communities in the United States and around the world; and

**Whereas** the Bush administration's status-quo trade agenda, which included further bilateral trade deals with Colombia, South Korea and Panama, was repudiated by voters in the 2008 election; and

**Whereas** these Bush holdover trade deals would bring forth further negative effects of the types seen in other "free" trade deals – threatening U.S. jobs and the environment worldwide, hurting family farmers, continuing to depress food- and product-safety standards, limiting a country's right to access affordable medicines, and giving foreign corporations greater rights than those enjoyed by U.S. businesses; and

**Whereas** a majority of Democrats in the House in 2009 co-sponsored HR 3012/S.2821, the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment ("TRADE") Act, in order to give a more balanced way to expand trade, and

**Whereas** the Supreme Court decision in the 2010 "Citizens United" case will allow unprecedented corporate and foreign campaign money into our elections, leading to even more unfair trade agreements;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we Democrats oppose approval of the Colombia, South Korea and Panama Free Trade Agreements and will support only those trade deals that (1) set strong and fully enforceable protections for environmental, labor, and food safety standards; (2) protect democratic freedoms; (3) support U.S. jobs and family farms; and (4) provide for dispute resolution processes that are transparent and open to citizens; and

**Be it further resolved** that we Democrats support the TRADE Act, HR 3012/S.2821, currently co-sponsored by at least 136 members of the House of Representatives, including a majority of House Democrats.

Adopted by 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats in Biennial Caucus Assembled, March 14, 2010