

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2007

George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President,

It has been reported that, shortly, the White House will ask the U.S. Congress to reauthorize "fast track" trade authority, which is set to expire on June 30th of this year.

We, the undersigned, support trade and plenty of it. But we are strongly opposed to fast track, and we intend to strongly oppose an effort to reauthorize it.

Over the last twenty years, fast track trade authority has been used to push through Congress a series of trade agreements lacking strong, enforceable mechanisms to protect our labor and environmental standards, as well as our economic and national security interests. As a consequence, we have seen explosive growth of the trade deficit – which now exceeds \$800 billion a year – as well as millions of American jobs lost to unfair global competition.

In the six years that the current Administration has had fast track authority, it has shown a particular unwillingness to address these problems, and has instead focused on negotiating a string of new, flawed agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

It is time for a new trade policy that demands fair and reciprocal trade, and stands up for our country, our workers, and our national security interests.

Again, we believe in trade and support trade, but we feel strongly that the current trade strategy injures our country and needs to be changed. For those reasons we intend to aggressively oppose the extension of fast track authority if and when it is considered in the Senate this year.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Dyer *Shelby* *Ben Ash*
Nellie Steiner *Nancy Jorgensen* *Barbara Byrnes*
Robert C. Dyer