

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today the House of Representatives passed the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement, the first U.S. trade agreement to contain fully enforceable labor and environmental standards that Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) and other Ways and Means Committee members worked to include. After the 2006 elections, Congressional Democrats said no more trade deals that neglect long-standing demands on workers' rights and the environment. After months of negotiations on the U.S.-Peru FTA, the Bush Administration gave in to these Democratic demands. Congressman Blumenauer, who for years has been fighting irresponsible trade policy and for trade that meets the needs of working families, the environment and poor people at home and abroad, issued the following statement:

“For the first time, Congress has passed a trade agreement with real, enforceable labor and environmental standards that protect workers and the planet,” said Congressman Blumenauer. “In my new position on the Ways and Means Committee, I worked to include these landmark provisions because I am committed to advancing a new type of trade that addresses Oregon’s concerns about workers and the environment. The U.S.-Peru FTA is a groundbreaking agreement that sets a new standard for how this Congress will craft future trade deals.”

### The U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement:

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Requires that both the United States and Peru enforce the core International Labor Organization standards.

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Requires that both the United States and Peru enforce key multilateral environmental agreements.

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Prohibits the United States and Peru from weakening their labor or environmental laws to attract trade or investment in a race to the bottom.

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Prohibits trade in illegally-logged wood and wood products.

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Protects the United States' and Peru's rights to pass laws and regulations for the public welfare, in areas such as public health, food safety, and the environment.

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Levels the playing field for U.S. firms that create jobs through exports.

The Peru Trade Agreement is a Win for Labor and the Environment:

“The Peru Free Trade Agreement marks an important step toward a trade model that will benefit working people in both countries.” – AFL-CIO

“No union “has identified members’ jobs that would be threatened by this trade deal... The UAW strongly supports the provisions on worker rights and the environment that have been included.” – United Auto Workers

“The environmental provisions included in the final text of the Peru Free Trade Agreement mark a significant step forward, and we commend the Democratic leadership for this achievement.” - *Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Environmental Investigation Agency, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club*