

Checklist for Strengthening Manufacturing

FEBRUARY 3, 2004

<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Oppose the recently completed U.S.–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) currently under negotiation and the proposed U.S.–Thailand Free Trade Agreement that will shift more manufacturing jobs abroad while failing to include meaningful protections for workers’ rights so that America’s industrial workers can compete fairly.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Co-sponsor the Employee Free Choice Act (S. 1925, H.R. 3619), which would restore workers right to join unions free of employer coercion and interference. The legislation would amend the National Labor Relations Act to provide for card-check recognition to give workers free choice, provide for first-contract mediation and arbitration and create meaningful remedies for employees who have suffered employer interference and intimidation during organizing campaigns, including three times the back pay for workers illegally fired for trying to join a union and gain a first contract.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Oppose the Bush administration’s overtime pay take-away regulations that could make 8 million workers ineligible for overtime pay. Also oppose the compensatory time legislation and other proposals that would undermine the 40-hour workweek, resulting in more manufacturing employees working longer hours for less pay.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Oppose any reform of the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) tax, such as Rep. Thomas’s proposal, H.R. 2896, and the foreign tax provisions in S. 1637, which would encourage the shift of more manufacturing jobs overseas. Instead, replace the FSC with tax incentives to help U.S. manufacturers create jobs for America’s workers and cope with retiree health care and pension costs.</p> <p>Comments:</p>

YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Support legislation and the use of domestic trade laws to ensure China meets its international obligations regarding fair currency and workers' rights standards so that U.S. manufacturers are not disadvantaged by illegal practices.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Increase our national security by supporting measures to strengthen the domestic defense manufacturing base, including procurement reform, enhanced Buy American requirements and limits to "offsets" that drain critical technology and good jobs.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Support legislation to address the retiree health legacy cost issue that will protect the benefits of retirees at older manufacturing and mining companies and relieve the unfair competition now faced by these companies, including legislation to shore up financing of health care benefits for retirees under the Coal Act. Currently, older manufacturing companies are at a tremendous disadvantage compared with new domestic competitors and foreign manufacturers who do not have these same retiree health legacy costs.</p> <p>Comments:</p>
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Fix the Medicare prescription drug law enacted in 2003 so retirees who currently have prescription drug coverage from their former employers will receive the same prescription drug benefit as other retirees and employers will not have an incentive to drop their retiree coverage. Also, fix the Medicare prescription drug law by closing the gaps in the benefit, adding tough cost-containment provisions and eliminating the provisions that would privatize the Medicare program.</p> <p>Comments:</p>

Please leave one copy of this checklist with your senators or representative. Return one copy to your union or the Industrial Union Council. You may mail it to AFL-CIO, Industrial Union Council, 815 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006 or e-mail your responses to manufacturing@afclcio.org.



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