



Via Fax

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Charles Rangel, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

On behalf of the 700,000 active and retired members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I write to inform you of our strong support for H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007.

Service sector workers have consistently been denied access to the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program even as their jobs are increasingly subjected to the perils of unchecked globalization. CWA appreciates your inclusion of this highly vulnerable sector of workers.

Additionally, the increased funding for this important program represents solid progress. The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007 contains the language necessary to ensure that eligibility and administration of the TAA program is performed by merit staff employees.

CWA appreciates the positive changes made in the Health Care Tax Credit (HCTC) section of the TAA program and feels that these changes will serve to help trade-affected workers and their families maintain affordable health care while participating in the TAA training program.

Mr. Chairman, the TAA program has been neglected for far too long. Some have proposed wage insurance programs in lieu of the retraining necessary for trade-affected workers to move into the jobs of tomorrow. We do not believe that an uncapped wage insurance program provides workers with a path to prosperity and stability, which retraining provides. The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007 gives workers a choice in benefits while providing flexibility in the TAA program for those workers who wish to switch between programs. CWA believes this is a thoughtful compromise but urges you to emphasize training over wage insurance.

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We thank you and your colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for your work on the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007. We request that you oppose any amendments that will negatively affect the delicate compromises contained in this legislation and ask that you urge your colleagues on the Committee to do likewise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Rechenbach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Rechenbach
Executive Vice President

c: Ways and Means Committee