

## **SIGN-ON LETTER AGAINST OMAN FTA**

Dear Representative/Senator:

On behalf of the millions of Americans we represent, the undersigned religious, labor, human rights, consumer, environmental, and family farm organizations urge you to oppose the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA).

OFTA would expand the failed model of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). This model has accelerated job loss and lowered living standards in the United States while exacerbating poverty and social disparities in the developing nations with which we trade.

After a contentious battle last July, CAFTA passed the House of Representatives by a single vote. Unfortunately, OFTA is nearly word-for-word identical to CAFTA.

Like NAFTA and CAFTA, OFTA fails to include any meaningful labor and environmental protections. The lack of effective labor provisions in OFTA is particularly significant in light of the recent *New York Times* article revealing massive labor abuses in Jordan—a nation with which the United States has a free trade agreement.<sup>1</sup> These violations include widespread human trafficking, 20-hour workdays, and widespread failure to pay back wages. More troubling is the fact the Oman FTA contains weaker labor provisions than the Jordan FTA.

While, current Omani law does not come close to meeting core International Labor Organization (ILO) standards, members of the Ways and Means Committee have been trying to encourage the Sultan of Oman to bring his nation's laws into compliance. However, as evidenced by the five-year record in Jordan, when foreign "guest workers" comprise much of the labor force—and do not speak the language, changing domestic laws is not sufficient to ensure that workers' rights are respected. Sweatshop conditions with our trading partners mean more lost jobs in the United States.

In addition, as with other recent FTAs, the Oman agreement fails to ensure that a country is obligated to implement provisions of key international environment agreement such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

OFTA also stands to unnecessarily harm the sick and the poor. It includes unprecedented monopoly rights for large pharmaceutical corporations that extend beyond the data exclusivity protections many in Congress opposed in CAFTA. These additional protections provided in OFTA effectively forbid generic competition for extended periods and would further limit access to affordable medicines.

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<sup>1</sup> *New York Times*, An Ugly Side of Free Trade: Sweatshops in Jordan (May 3, 2006)

OFTA also extends extraordinary foreign investor protections and rights beyond those provided in CAFTA (which in itself expanded on the NAFTA rules that resulted in 41 foreign investor challenges to U.S. health, environmental and other policies with over \$35 million in government funds paid in damages to date). OFTA would expose many U.S. government decisions about federal contract, lease or concession agreements by granting increased rights to foreign investors. The new OFTA-covered areas subject to such challenge include more natural resource contracts (such as exploration, extraction, refining, transportation, distribution, or sale); services contracts (such as power generation or distribution, water treatment or distribution, or telecommunication); and infrastructure projects (including construction of roads, bridges, canals, dams, or pipelines).

By opposing the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement, Congress will send an important message to the American people and to the world: most Americans desire a new U.S. trade and globalization policy that will lift standards of living and promote connections between countries that foster goodwill, fairness, and prosperity for all.

### **Letter Signers, as of 6-20**

#### **National**

1. AFL-CIO
2. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
3. Alliance for Responsible Trade
4. American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition
5. Americans for Democratic Action
6. Campaign for Labor Rights
7. Center for Science in the Public Interest
8. Change to Win
9. Citizens Trade Campaign
10. Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office
11. Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador
12. Communications Workers of America
13. Defenders of Wildlife
14. Development GAP
15. Essential Action
16. Food and Water Watch
17. Friends of the Earth
18. Global Exchange
19. Health GAP (Global Access Project)
20. IATPAction
21. Institute for Local Self-Reliance
22. International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
23. International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
24. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

25. International Brotherhood of Teamsters
26. International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
27. International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers  
- Communications Workers of America
28. International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers  
of America
29. Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ
30. Labor Committee for Latin American Advancement
31. Laborers' International Union of North America
32. League of Rural Voters
33. Manufacturers for Fair Trade
34. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
35. National Family Farm Coalition
36. National Farmers Union
37. National Lawyers Guild
38. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
39. Presbyterian Church, (USA), Washington Office
40. Progressive Democrats of America
41. Progressive States Network
42. Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch
43. Quixote Center
44. Service Employees International Union
45. Sierra Club
46. SPEEA - Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace
47. Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
48. UNITE HERE
49. United Food and Commercial Workers
50. United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
51. United Steelworkers
52. United Students Against Sweatshops
53. Western Organization of Resource Councils

### **State and Local**

1. 1199 SEIU, United Healthcare Workers East
2. Abilene Big Country Central Labor Council
3. ACT UP Philadelphia
4. AFA-CWA Local 13500, Pittsburgh, PA
5. AFA-CWA Local 28023, Philadelphia, PA
6. AFA-CWA Local Council 5
7. AFSCME Council 31, IL
8. AFSCME Council 5, MN
9. AFSCME Local 34, Minneapolis, MN
10. AFSCME Local 66, Duluth, MN
11. AFSCME Local 2822, Minneapolis, MN

12. AFSCME Local 3342, Tampa, FL
13. AFTRA - Twin Cities Local, MN
14. Alabama AFL-CIO
15. Allegheny County Labor Council, PA
16. Alliance for Democracy, CA
17. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005, Minneapolis, MN
18. Amalgamated Transit Union Local Union 694, San Antonio, TX
19. American Federation of Government Employees Local 948, ME
20. American Federation of Teachers, Wisconsin
21. American Friends Service Committee - Pacific NW Region
22. American Friends Service Committee, Texas Arkansas, Oklahoma Region
23. American Postal Workers Union Local Union 195, San Antonio, TX
24. Arizona AFL-CIO
25. Arkansas AFL-CIO
26. Ashtabula County Central Labor Council, OH
27. Auburn WAGE (Workers at GE) Committee, Auburn, ME
28. Audubon Washington
29. Austin Central Labor Council
30. BCTGM Local 264G, East Grand Forks, MN
31. BCTGM Local 267G, Crookston, MN
32. BCTGM Local 369G, Renville, MN
33. BCTGM Local 6, Philadelphia, PA
34. Boilermakers Local Union 433, Tampa, FL
35. Boise Central Trades and Labor Council, Idaho
36. Brooke-Hancock Central Labor Council, WV
37. Butte-Glenn Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Butte-Glenn County, California
38. California Coalition for Fair Trade and Human Rights
39. California Farmers Union
40. Caney Fork Headwaters Association, Pleasant Hill, TN
41. Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, Raleigh, NC
42. Casa Baltimore/Limay, MD
43. Central Minnesota AFL-CIO Trades and Labor Assembly, St. Cloud, MN
44. Central Oregon Labor Council
45. Central Texas Central Labor Council
46. Church Council of Greater Seattle
47. Clintonville Community Market, Columbus, OH
48. Coalition for Immigrants Right at the Community Level, York, PA
49. Coalition of Labor Union Women, MN
50. Coastal Bend Central Labor Council, Corpus Christi, TX
51. Comite Pro Amnistia General y Justicia Social, Seattle, WA
52. Communication Workers of America District 7
53. Communications Workers of America Local 3179, Clearwater, FL
54. Communications Workers of America Local 13302, Pittsburgh, PA
55. Communications Workers of America Local 13550, Pittsburgh, PA
56. Communications Workers of America Local 2107, Annapolis, MD

57. Communications Workers of America Local 9000, Los Angeles, CA
58. Communications Workers of America Local 9423, San Jose, CA
59. Communications Workers of America Local 9588, Colton, CA
60. Communications Workers of America Local 9588, Palm Springs, CA
61. Communications Workers of America Local Union 6143, San Antonio, TX
62. Community Alliance for Global Justice, Seattle, WA
63. Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Davis, CA
64. Community Coalition for Environmental Justice, Seattle, WA
65. Concerned Citizens of Newport, WI
66. Contra Costa Central Labor Council, CA
67. CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Albany NY
68. Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice, Pleasant Hill, TN
69. Dakota Resource Council, ND
70. Dakota Rural Action, SD
71. Dallas Central Labor Council
72. Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio
73. Denver Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
74. Department for Social Concerns of the Columbus Catholic Diocese
75. Duluth Central Labor Body, AFL-CIO, MN
76. Economic Justice for All
77. Education Austin
78. Enlace International, CA
79. Environment Texas
80. Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego, CA
81. Esperanza Center for Peace and Justice, San Antonio, TX
82. Five County Labor Council, PA
83. Florida AFL-CIO
84. Florida Alliance of Retired Americans
85. Florida Fair Trade Coalition
86. Florida League of United Latin American Citizens
87. Florida Sierra Club
88. Forests of the World, LLC, Durham, NC
89. Franciscan Friars, St. John the Baptist Province, JPIC Office
90. Fresno Madera Tulare King's County Labor Council, CA
91. Galveston County AFL-CIO, TX
92. Gifford Pinchot Task Force, Olympia WA
93. Global Gallery, Columbus, OH
94. Gray Panthers of Texas
95. Greater Boston Labor Council
96. Greater Glens Falls Central Labor Council, NY
97. Greater Kansas City Fair Trade Coalition
98. Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
99. Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council
100. Hall of Fame Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Canton, OH
101. Harrington Investments, Napa, CA

- 102. Harris County Central Labor Council, Houston, TX
- 103. Hillsboro County Teachers Association, AFT Local 7432, Tampa, FL
- 104. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN
- 105. Houston Globalization Forum
- 106. Houston Globalization Working Group
- 107. Houston Peace and Justice Center
- 108. Illinois AFL-CIO
- 109. International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Southern  
Territory
- 110. International Association of Machinists Air Transport District 143
- 111. International Association of Machinists Airline Local 1833, MN
- 112. International Association of Machinists District Lodge 165, St. Cloud, MN
- 113. International Association of Machinists District Lodge 77, St. Paul, MN
- 114. International Association of Machinists Local 1821, ME
- 115. International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2082, Fort Worth,  
TX
- 116. International Association of Machinists Lodge 623, St. Cloud, MN
- 117. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110, St. Paul, MN
- 118. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1768, Hinckley,  
ME
- 119. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1837, Manchester,  
ME
- 120. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2327, Augusta, ME
- 121. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 242, Minneapolis,  
MN
- 122. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46, Seattle, WA
- 123. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567, Portland ME
- 124. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 66, Pasadena, TX
- 125. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 681, Wichita Falls,  
TX
- 126. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 716, Houston, TX
- 127. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 824, Tampa, FL
- 128. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 915, Tampa, FL
- 129. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 520, Austin, TX
- 130. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 60, San Antonio,  
TX
- 131. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Puget Sound District  
Council, WA
- 132. International Longshore and Warehouse Union Southern California  
District Council
- 133. Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
- 134. IUE-CWA Local 1140, Minneapolis, MN
- 135. Jackson Central Labor Council, TN
- 136. Jobs With Justice of Greater Columbus
- 137. Kankakee Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO Central Body, IL

138. Kansas AFL-CIO
139. King County Labor Council, WA
140. Kutztown Area Democratic Club, Kutztown, PA
141. Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota
142. Laborers Local 327, Augusta, ME
143. Lehigh Valley Labor Council, PA
144. LEPOCO Peace Center, Bethlehem, PA
145. Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution, Madison, WI
146. Long Island Labor-Religion Coalition
147. Louisiana AFL-CIO
148. Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State
149. Maine AFL-CIO
150. Maine Fair Trade Campaign
151. Maine Labor Council – United Steelworkers
152. Maine Labor Group on Health
153. Maine Peoples Alliance
154. Maine State Employees Association, SEIU Local 1989
155. Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas, TX
156. Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO
157. Milwaukee Clean Clothes Campaign
158. Minneapolis Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, MN
159. Minneapolis Central Labor Union Council AFL-CIO, MN
160. Minnesota AFL-CIO
161. Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
162. Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition
163. Minnesota Farmers Union
164. Minnesota State Council of the International Association of Machinists
165. Minnesota Teamsters Joint Council 32
166. Missoula Area Central Labor Council, MT
167. Missouri AFL-CIO
168. Montgomery County (PA) Union Council
169. Napa-Solano Building Trades Council, CA
170. Nashville/Middle Tennessee Labor Council
171. Nashville Peace and Justice Center, TN
172. National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Local 391, ME
173. National Farm Worker Ministry - Florida
174. Native Forest Council, WA
175. Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility
176. New England Joint Board, RWDSU/UFCW
177. New Hampshire AFL-CIO
178. New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
179. New York Metropolitan Area Joint Board UNITE HERE
180. New York State AFL-CIO
181. New York State Labor-Religion Coalition
182. New York State United Teachers

183. North Bay Central Labor Council, CA
184. North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project
185. North Carolina State AFL-CIO
186. North Florida Central Labor Council
187. North Iowa Nine Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Mason City, IA
188. North Shore Labor Council, Lynn, MA
189. North Texas Jobs with Justice
190. North Worcester County CLC, MA
191. Northeastern Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation
192. Northern Kentucky Central Labor Council
193. Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
194. Ohio AFL-CIO
195. Ohio Association of Public School Employees Local 4, AFSCME
196. Ohio Conference on Fair Trade
197. Ohio Environmental Council
198. Ohio Farmers Union
199. Ohio Federation of Teachers
200. Ohio League of Conservation Voters
201. Ohio State University Students for Labor and Economic Justice
202. Ohio Working Group on Latin America
203. Omaha Federation of Labor
204. Order of Friars Minor, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Council, English Speaking Conference
205. Oregon AFL-CIO
206. Oregon Fair Trade Coalition
207. Oregon State Council of the International Association of Machinists
208. Pax Christi Austin, TX
209. Pax Christi Maine
210. Peace Action Maine
211. Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince Georges County, MD
212. Peace through Inter-American Community Action, Bangor, ME
213. Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, CA
214. Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
215. Pennsylvania Consumer Action Network
216. People in Defense of the Earth and her Resources, Austin, TX
217. People Organized to Win Economic Rights, ME
218. Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO
219. Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Tacoma, WA
220. Pipe Fitters Local 539, Minneapolis, MN
221. Plumbers Local 377 in Madison, AL
222. Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, OR
223. Portland Jobs With Justice, OR
224. Powder River Basin Resource Council, WY
225. Quaker Peace Center, Miami, FL
226. Red Wing Area AFL-CIO Council, MN

227. Refuge Ministries, St. Petersburg, FL
228. Resource Center of the Americas, Minneapolis, MN
229. Sacramento Central Labor Council, CA
230. Saint Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly, AFL-CIO, MN
231. San Antonio Central Labor Council, TX
232. San Diego Fair Trade Coalition, CA
233. San Francisco Labor Council, CA
234. San Mateo Central Labor Council, CA
235. Santa Clara-San Benito Building Trades Council, CA
236. Seattle CISPES
237. Service Employees International Union Local 105, Denver, CO
238. Service Employees International Union Local 503, OR
239. Service Employees International Union Minnesota State Council
240. Sheet Metal Workers Local 54, Houston, TX
241. Sheet Metal Workers Local 67, San Antonio, TX
242. Sheet Metal Workers Local 15, FL
243. Sierra Club, Lonestar Chapter, TX
244. Sierra Club, North Star Chapter, MN
245. Simply Living, Columbus, OH
246. Snohomish County Labor Council, WA
247. Socially Responsible Investment Coalition, San Antonio, TX
248. South Bay Central Labor Council, CA
249. South Dakota AFL-CIO
250. South Eastern Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
251. South Florida Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
252. South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign, Olympia, WA
253. Southeast Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Rochester, MN
254. Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network, North Carolina
255. Southern Dakota County Labor Council, MN
256. Southern Maine Central Labor Council
257. Southern Oregon Central Labor Council
258. Southern Tier Labor-Religion Coalition, NY
259. Spokane Labor Council, WA
260. St. Austin Parish Social Justice Ministry, Austin, TX
261. St. Croix Valley Central Labor Council, MN
262. St. Paul Area Local, American Postal Workers Union, MN
263. St. Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly, MN
264. St. Paul Plumbers and Gasfitters Local 34, MN
265. Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, FL
266. Steuben/Livingston Central Labor Council of New York
267. Student Global AIDS Campaign - UNC Chapel Hill, NC
268. Sweatshop Watch, CA
269. Tarrant County Central Labor Council
270. Teamsters Joint Council 42, CA
271. Teamsters Joint Council 7, CA

- 272. Teamsters Local 340, ME
- 273. Teamsters Local 624, Santa Rosa, CA
- 274. Teamsters Local 67, San Antonio, TX
- 275. Teamsters Local 70, Oakland, CA
- 276. Teamsters Local 71, Charlotte, NC
- 277. Teamsters Local 745, Dallas, TX
- 278. Teamsters Local 952, Orange, CA
- 279. Temple Beth Am Social Action, Seattle, WA
- 280. TERN/Tennessee Economic Renewal Network
- 281. Texas AFL-CIO
- 282. Texas Fair Trade Coalition
- 283. Texas Farmers Union
- 284. Texas Federation of Teachers
- 285. Texas Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- 286. Texas State Association of Electrical Workers
- 287. Texas State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- 288. Thomas Merton Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- 289. Tri-Counties Central Labor Council, Ventura, CA
- 290. Twin Cities Religion and Labor Network
- 291. TX UAW State CAP Council
- 292. Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, ME
- 293. UNITE HERE Chicago and Midwest Region Joint Board
- 294. UNITE HERE Local 21, Rochester MN
- 295. UNITE HERE Local 251, Southwest Regional Joint Board
- 296. UNITE HERE Local 486, ME
- 297. UNITE HERE Local 99, Duluth MN
- 298. United Association Local 123, Tampa, FL
- 299. United Auto Workers Local 879, St. Paul, MN
- 300. United Auto Workers Minnesota State CAP Council
- 301. United Auto Workers Texas State CAP Council
- 302. United Auto Workers Region 2B
- 303. United Auto Workers Region 9
- 304. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776, Plymouth Meeting,  
PA
- 305. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1445, MA/ME
- 306. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21, Seattle, WA
- 307. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 408, TX
- 308. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789, South St. Paul, MN
- 309. United Steelworkers District 1
- 310. United Steelworkers District 11
- 311. United Steelworkers District 2
- 312. United Steelworkers Local 11-418, Cottage Grove, MN
- 313. United Steelworkers Local 1157-L, Tyler, TX
- 314. United Steelworkers Local 1188, ME
- 315. United Steelworkers Local 13-423, Port Arthur, TX

- 316. United Steelworkers Local 1-36, ME
- 317. United Steelworkers Local 1-9, ME
- 318. United Steelworkers Local 2002, Minneapolis, MN
- 319. United Steelworkers Local 261, ME
- 320. United Steelworkers Local 264, St. Paul, MN
- 321. United Steelworkers Local 4134, Lonestar, TX
- 322. United Steelworkers Local 460G, Kasota, MN
- 323. United Steelworkers Local 4895, Rockdale, TX
- 324. United Steelworkers Local 5022, Corpus Christi, TX
- 325. United Steelworkers Local 5613, Amarillo, TX
- 326. United Steelworkers Local 662, Rosemount, MN
- 327. United Steelworkers Local 6803, Albert Lea, MN
- 328. United Steelworkers Local 7090, Gilbert, MN
- 329. United Steelworkers Local 746-L, Tyler, TX
- 330. United Steelworkers Local 9984, FL
- 331. United University Professions, NY
- 332. University Presbyterian Church Peace and Justice Committee, Tuscaloosa,  
AL
- 333. Upper East Tennessee Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Johnson City,  
TN
- 334. Upper Midwest Witness for Peace
- 335. Utah AFL-CIO
- 336. Vermont AFL-CIO
- 337. Veterans for Peace Chapter 27, MN
- 338. Veterans for Peace, Huntsville, AL
- 339. Veterans for Peace, ME
- 340. Waldo County Peace & Justice, ME
- 341. Waldo County Progressives, ME
- 342. Washington Association of Churches
- 343. Washington Fair Trade Coalition
- 344. Washington Farmers Union
- 345. Washington State Labor Council
- 346. WashTech/CWA Local 37083
- 347. West Central Florida Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
- 348. West Virginia AFL-CIO
- 349. White River Central Labor Council, Bloomington, IN
- 350. Wisconsin AFL-CIO
- 351. Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
- 352. Wisconsin Farmers Union
- 353. Witness for Peace - Upper Midwest
- 354. Witness for Peace - Northwest
- 355. Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Maine Chapter
- 356. Working Families Win, Southeast PA