



**THE AFL-CIO and THE U.S. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COUNCIL**  
**present**  
**Trade Summit 2006: Crisis and Opportunity**  
**Wednesday, July 12, 2006**

**American Political Leaders Speak Out on Trade Crisis**

**Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.),** *Chair, American Dream Initiative, Democratic Leadership Council*

“Today’s announcement of the largest trade deficit in history is an alarm bell that we can’t afford to ignore. We need to take common sense steps now. Without action, our debt will continue to drag down our economy, cripple our ability to create jobs and hit New Yorkers and all Americans in the pocketbook as the dollar continues to lose purchasing power.”<sup>1</sup>

**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.)**

“Our opponents argue that current trade policy is appropriate because of the fact that it may reduce prices to consumers. This is only true if you review what hidden costs we are paying. Such costs include: over 3 million lost manufacturing jobs in the past 5 years, frozen wages, health and pension benefits for workers that have managed to remain employed, shrinking tax base for Federal, State and local government.”<sup>2</sup>

**Former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.),** *2004 Democratic vice-presidential nominee*

“We have gone from being the largest creditor on the planet to now being the largest debtor on the planet ... And then this trade deficit... This is not just in manufacturing. I know a lot of folks think that’s where it is. But it’s also in services. It’s in the high-tech industry. It’s in the places that America has to be strong going forward in order to be able to compete.”<sup>3</sup>

**Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.),** *Senate Minority Leader*

“The trade deficit figures today should raise alarm bells around the country about the Bush Administration’s flawed trade policy. Experts all around the world agree that these astronomical trade deficits are not sustainable and threaten to disrupt the U.S. and global economies.”<sup>4</sup>

**Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.),** *former Chair, Democratic Leadership Council; Member, Senate New Democrat Coalition*

“Our growing deficit threatens not only our economic interests, but also our national security. We can’t afford to continue to depend on foreign competitors like China to finance our debt.”<sup>5</sup>

**Rep. Phil English (R-Pa.),** *Member, U.S. House Ways & Means Committee*

“Our current trade policy is yielding record trade deficits that are flat-out unsustainable. We are witnessing the hollowing out of a major part of America’s manufacturing base, especially small manufacturers. We can’t sustain a trade deficit exceeding five percent of our economy and maintain our standard of living. The administration and Congress need to act now....”<sup>6</sup>

**Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.),** *Ranking Democrat, U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, U.S. Senate candidate in Maryland*

“When you look at trade deficits in the context of growing foreign ownership of our national debt, you see that we’re increasingly beholden to the very countries whose markets we’d like to open to American goods. Unless we reverse this dangerous trend, we’ll soon find ourselves without negotiating leverage to promote our trade agenda.”<sup>7</sup>

**Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-Mo.),** *Member, U.S. House Committee on Agriculture*

“As the U.S. trade deficit, and the portion of that deficit attributed to China, continue[s] to grow, our own economy is at risk of losing its reputation as a leader in world trade.”<sup>8</sup>

**Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.),** *former Ranking Democrat, U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade*

“In the short-term these [trade deficit] figures mean lost jobs and lost export opportunities for U.S. businesses and workers; over the long-term, trade imbalances of this magnitude mean erosion of the U.S. manufacturing sector, downward pressure on the U.S. economy and instability in the global market.”<sup>9</sup>

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Sen. Hilary Rodham-Clinton (D-N.Y.), “Clinton Calls for Common Sense Action on Mounting Trade Deficit,” Congressional Press Release, Feb. 10, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), “Chinese competition,” Congressional floor speech, April 27, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Speech Before Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Sept. 22, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), “Democrats Raise Serious Concerns About Record U.S. Trade Deficit,” Congressional Press Release, Feb. 10, 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), Congressional website, Jan. 26, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> Rep. Phil English (R-Pa.), “English Says Economy, Trade Deficit Top Issues Facing U.S.,” Congressional Press Release, Aug. 26, 2003.

<sup>7</sup> Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), “Enough is Enough - Growing Trade Deficits Require Action,” Congressional Press Release, March 9, 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-Mo.), “Emerson Radio Address: America Is in the Red on China,” Congressional Column, July 16, 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), “Record Trade Deficit Further Evidence Of Failed Bush Trade Policy,” Congressional Press Release, Oct. 14, 2004.