

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2007

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Democratic Caucus Chairman
202 A Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Emanuel,


We are writing to request that you place on the next Caucus meeting's agenda a discussion of the proposed Bush Administration-sponsored trade agreements being negotiated by Chairman Rangel.

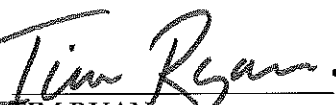
Chairman Rangel has agreed to obtain consent from leadership before announcing any deal with the Administration. However, we request that the leadership reserve its judgment on whether or not to accept this deal until members of the Caucus have had the opportunity to read and discuss the proposed text and form a Caucus consensus position on how to proceed. In addition, we would also like to discuss "Fast Track" renewal and its implications.


We submit this request based on the enormous political and policy consequences for the Caucus. Many of the newly elected freshmen campaigned on a platform of ensuring a significant change of course on the past Bush trade policy. Further, we are aware that the AFL-CIO and Change to Win union members who are most focused on trade issues are opposed to any new deal that does not address a range of serious problems with the pending Bush agreements.


We seek to avoid a split in the Caucus on this issue, given the devastating effects of such splits in the past.


Sincerely,



MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


TIM RYAN
Member of Congress


DALE KILDEE
Member of Congress


PHIL HARE
Member of Congress


LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


THOMAS H. ALLEN
Member of Congress