

U.S. lawmakers unveil bill to review all free trade agreements

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Saying it is time that trade pacts work for workers, not just for multi-national corporations, top union leaders and several lawmakers unveiled a new comprehensive trade bill last month.

The legislation by Ohio Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown — who won his seat in 2006 after a campaign that emphasized his opposition to U.S. trade policy — orders the next president to review all existing trade pacts according to new criteria that emphasize workers' rights and environmental protection, not just business benefits. Brown does not expect it to pass this year.

Those present trade pacts that flunk must be renegotiated according to those new standards. New pacts must meet them, too.

"Our nation can't survive in a global economy without a different set of trade rules" that protect workers here from the race to the bottom and workers abroad from "exploitation by drug companies and energy companies," Brown said.

The Trade Reform, Accountability,

Development and Employment Act, called the Trade Act, is designed to set new trade policy for the U.S., and to wrest control of the issue from the White House and return it to Congress and the people, backers said.

It would replace now-dead "fast track" for trade pacts, where presidents sent them to Congress for up-or-down votes on implementing legislation, with no changes.

A joint congressional-White House commission, with lawmakers representing more than just financial and business interests that dominate congressional trade policy, would draft the new standards all trade pacts would then have to meet. Brown said in practical terms that means a two-year moratorium on all trade pacts.

The legislation has strong union support, including both the AFL-CIO and Change to Win.

Teamsters President James Hoffa said the new bill would be pro-worker, unlike past trade pacts. "Investors got NAFTA, billionaires got CAFTA and workers got the shaft," he said of the treaties with Canada, Mexico and

Central America.

"What trade does right now," said Communications Workers President Larry Cohen, is not only strip U.S. workers of jobs but "transfers our wealth to the Middle East, China and sovereign wealth funds" — multi-billion-dollar investment funds run by foreign governments.

Brown said the "public is calling for a very, very different direction in trade policy — and they're way ahead of this city (Washington, D.C.) and this body (Congress) in doing so. Now we're catching up."



Iron Worker Shopmen's Local 516 apprentices shine at competition

Benjamin Ellis (above) of Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516 in Portland captured first place



at an international apprenticeship contest hosted at the Iron Workers Training Center in Northeast Portland. The contest, held every two years, draws top apprentices from Oregon, Northern California and Western Canada. The daylong event consists of exams in math, blueprint reading, and general knowledge of the industry, as well as hands-on work in layout and welding. Ellis is a fourth-year apprentice employed at Canon. The victory earned him a trophy and a check for \$1,000. Second place went to Chris Burton (left), a third-year apprentice from Local 516. He received a trophy and \$500.



Rain Forest Boots
Made in America!

Try a pair on, you'll like them.
Tough boots for the Northwest.

AL'S SHOES
5811 SE 82nd, Portland 503-771-2130
Mon-Fri 10-7:30 Sat 10-5:30 Sun 12-6

INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING

Kirkland Union Manors
3530 SE 84th Ave.
Portland 97266
503-777-8101

Westmoreland's Union Manor
6404 SE 23rd Ave.
Portland 97202
503-233-5671

Manors Make the Difference

- Studio and One-Bedroom Apartments
- Affordable Rent includes Utilities (EXCEPT PHONE AND CABLE)
- Planned Events, Clubs, and Activities
- Ideal Locations offer easy access to Bus Lines, Shopping, and Entertainment
- No Costly Buy-In or Application Fees
- Federal Rent Subsidies Available (MUST QUALIFY)



WESTMORELAND'S UNION MANOR
Opened in October of 1966

LABOR LEADERS IN THE PORTLAND BUILDING TRADE MOVEMENT ORGANIZED THE UNION LABOR RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION IN 1962, WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.

"We believe that everyone earns the right to retire, free from pressures of earlier years."



Kirkland Union Plaza
1414 Kauffman Ave.
Vancouver 98660
360-694-4314

Marshall Union Manor
2020 NW Northrup
Portland 97209
503-225-0677

WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG
TDD 503-771-0912



Quest Investment Management, Inc.

• **Serving Multi-Employer Trusts for Over Twenty Years**

Cam Johnson Greg Sherwood
Adrian Hamilton Monte Johnson
Doug Goebel Bill Zenk
Garth Nisbet Pat Worley

One SW Columbia St., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97258
503-221-0158
www.QuestInvestment.com