

# Schrader favors Korea trade deal; balks at TRADE Act

Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-5th District) told labor leaders at an April 26 breakfast that he is "leaning strongly in favor" of the Korea Free Trade Agreement and is unlikely to support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act. He still is undecided on trade deals with Colombia and Panama.

His positions run counter to the AFL-CIO, which opposes all of the free trade agreements and supports the

TRADE Act to create a fairer and more balanced trade policy.

The Korea pact is the largest trade deal of its type since NAFTA. It could be voted on this summer.

Schrader maintains a trade deal with Korea will boost Oregon's exports and create jobs for the state, which is strategically located on the Pacific Rim. He believes that U.S. consumers learned a lesson from the Great Recession and will no longer consume more than they earn.

"So if we want to get our economy back and put you guys back to work, we've got to have you making stuff for people who are going to buy it," he said. "And if the American consumer is only going to buy X — and that's way below where we're going to get full employment — I want to sell stuff to Korea. I want to sell it to England, I want to sell it to other countries."

As for the TRADE Act, Schrader described it as "too dictatorial" and "very, very, very prescriptive."

He said portions of the Act — those covering labor standards, environmental regulations, and investment provisions — are reasonable and enforceable, but other elements are too specific.

"Let's put it this way," he explained, "if a foreign country came to me with the TRADE Act, I'd say 'go to hell.' It would basically be giving away my sovereignty."

Schrader asserts that proponents of the TRADE Act don't really expect it to pass. "They're interested in making sure that these so-called 'free trade' agreements become 'fair trade' agreements," he said.

Contacted by the Labor Press, Arthur Stamoulis, director of the union-backed Oregon Fair Trade Campaign, pointed to a report by the International Trade Commission (ITC) that projects the Korea FTA will increase the overall

U.S. trade deficit, resulting in net job losses. In addition, the study suggests that good-paying industries like autos, electronics and other manufacturing are among those that will be hit the hardest.

"Not only will we be losing more jobs than created, but the jobs lost pay more," Stamoulis said.

The labor-supported Economic Policy Institute goes even further, predicting that the Korea FTA will double the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea within seven years, with Korean imports displacing approximately 888,000 American jobs — and the FTA alone responsible for a net 159,000 jobs.

Stamoulis also told the Labor Press that the TRADE Act's strong labor provisions "are absolutely not part of the Korea FTA, nor any other existing or pending trade agreement." He said the Korea FTA includes weak labor provisions inserted by the Bush Administration and that the actual text of the Korea agreement's investment provisions provides foreign investors the right to challenge U.S. laws, regulations and even court decisions as "regulatory takings" through international arbitration processes that completely circumvent the U.S. judicial system.

"This is clearly a right that U.S. businesses and U.S. citizens do not have," Stamoulis said.

On other issues discussed at the

breakfast, sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council:

- Schrader said since Republicans took control of the U.S. House in 2011 they have not submitted a single jobs bill. "They're not even talking about jobs on the House side," he said. "Republicans have not offered any jobs bills, nothing that references jobs, nothing that even makes an attempt to put working men and women back to work."

- On reducing the federal deficit: Schrader said he will fight to make sure funding for jobs programs, infrastructure, education, and research aren't impacted.

- On Social Security: "Social Security is in trouble. It's going to go broke in about 20 years. Either that or everyone will have to take an automatic 25 percent cut in benefits. We've got to do something about that."

- On Rep. Paul Ryan's budget proposal: "While I disagreed violently with Congressman Ryan's particulars in his budget ... I do appreciate the fact that he's talking about the big picture. We have big problems in this country. A foreign country owns most of our debt at this point in time. We're in probably the worst deficit situation this country's been in since World War II. We've got to get that fixed. But there's a smart way to go about it and there's a dumb way to go about it."

## JOB OPENING

### Office Manager

#### Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Full time (35+ hrs. per week), Permanent/\$18.55 hourly, DOE

**Application Deadline: Friday, May 20, 2011, at 5 p.m.**

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council is seeking a self-motivated individual to work independently and perform routine clerical and administrative functions, as well as provide high-level administrative support. Prepare and draft correspondence, schedule appointments, receive visitors, organize and maintain paper and electronic files, provide information to callers, as well as perform moderately complex accounts payable work.

**Position Qualifications and Job Duties** — Proficient with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint; financial software (QuickBooks, accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll); online access and communication technology. Oversee day-to-day operations of the Labor Council. Assure the maintenance of official records and documents; assure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. Provide customer service. Outstanding verbal and written communication skills. Prefer a background in organized labor.

Please submit résumé, cover letter to:

NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
1125 SE Madison, Suite 100D, Portland, OR 97214

For a complete job description, call the Northwest Oregon Labor Council at 503-235-9444.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO,  
is an equal opportunity employer.

## INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING

### Westmoreland's Union Manor

6404 SE 23rd Ave.  
Portland 97202  
503-233-5671

### Marshall Union Manor

2020 NW Northrup  
Portland 97209  
503-225-0677

## 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)




### MARSHALL UNION MANOR

Opened in January of 1974



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

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

WWW.THEUNIONMANORS.ORG  
TDD 503-771-0912



## Quest Investment Management, Inc.

### • Serving Multi-Employer Trusts for over 25 Years

Cam Johnson                      Greg Sherwood  
Garth Nisbet                      Monte Johnson  
Doug Goebel                      Adrian Hamilton  
Jon Bettendorf

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

www.QuestInvestment.com