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I not only oppose the Peru FTA, but have been leading the effort to change our trade policies away from the same failed model as NAFTA and CAFTA. There is simply no reason that enforceable labor rights and environmental protections are kept out of trade deals.

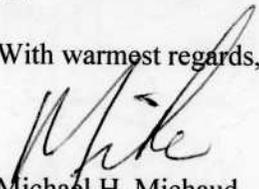
Like CAFTA, the Peru FTA does not require that core International Labor Organization (ILO) standards be enforced, despite the fact that Peru's President Toledo offered to include such standards. The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) ignored his offer.

The Peru FTA also includes no legal provisions to prevent employers from interfering in union organizing, and it allows companies to thwart union recruitment by hiring workers temporarily and subcontracting work out. The environment should also be a major concern in any free trade agreement, and especially with Peru, since the Amazon rainforest is one of the most precious remaining ecosystems in the world. There is grave concern that this agreement falls short on environmental protection.

I do not oppose expanding trade with countries like Peru or Oman, if the trade agreements were crafted in a way that would promote the interests of workers in the U.S. as well as Peru and Oman without being detrimental to the local environment. Unfortunately, as it is currently written, the Peru FTA fails this test. Please know that I will continue to work hard to defeat unfair agreements like the Peru FTA.

Thank you again for sharing your views with me. In addition, I also provide occasional email updates on a range of issues affecting people in Maine. If you would like to receive this information, please visit my website at http://michaud.house.gov/email_newsletter.asp and sign up for my email newsletter. I appreciate the opportunity to represent you.

With warmest regards,


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

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