

October 31, 2005

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

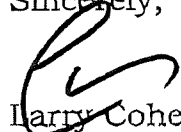
I am writing on behalf of the 700,000 members of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, to thank you for introducing the Trade Adjustment Assistance Improvement Act, H.R. 4156. CWA strongly supports this measure and will work to bring about its passage.

CWA represents hundreds of thousands of employees in the service sector. As you are aware, under the present qualification guidelines of the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, service employees are not eligible for assistance. At the same time, however, multinational corporations are sending an ever-increasing number of jobs offshore, particularly in customer service and other service work. The TAAIA would provide service workers who have lost their jobs due to outsourcing an opportunity for training, education and other benefits that now are denied them.

Your bill provides a very necessary overhaul of the current trade adjustment assistance program because it recognizes that service sector workers, as well as those in manufacturing, also are adversely affected by offshoring and our nation's shortsighted trade policies. Trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Central American Free Trade Agreement harm manufacturing, service and technical workers alike. There is no reason to deny service workers the benefits of trade adjustment assistance, and your legislation will stop this unfair treatment.

For CWA members and all service sector workers who may be affected by offshoring, H.R. 4156 is critical. We are pleased to join forces with you to win passage of this important measure and appreciate your efforts on behalf of working families.

Sincerely,



Larry Cohen
President