A Trade Agenda to Grow the Middle Class: Wage Promotion Partnerships

- Fair and balanced trade
- Growing wages at home and in our partners
- Partnering to boost global growth
- Domestic measures to make workers and communities whole
Fair and Balanced Trade

- Permanently set aside the Trade Promotion Partnership
- “U.S. Trade Prosecutor’s Office”—self-initiated anti-dumping cases (e.g., in paper, rubber, aluminum, glass)
- Fair currency values (Buffett proposal or alternative; see Rob Scott of Economic Policy Institute for options)
- Voluntary Trade Readjustment Under Managed Production (TRUMP) in auto sector. Echoes of Reagan auto VRA but...
  - Track content not vehicles assembled
  - Continental negotiations (North America-Asia) to increase North American production then negotiate within North America
- Modify NAFTA rules for buses (plus add U.S. & Mexico labor provisions) to increase driver wages in both countries

Growing Wages at Home and in Our Partners

- Baseline data on wages/compensation in manufacturing
- Negotiate targets for wage/compensation increases in manufacturing in each country
- Domestic measures determined by each partner to achieve targets
- Annual reporting of wages/compensation
U.S. Domestic Manufacturing Wage Options

- GUARANTEE that manufacturing workers generally share in the benefits of trade
  - Manufacturing-specific minimum wages that could vary by county; scheduled increases (e.g., a minimum of 1.5% annually plus inflation adjustments)
  - Minimum wage standards for apprenticeship graduates tied to program length, skill level
  - Company-level continental works councils in North America (OTA US-Mexico Trade 1992)

Partnering to Boost Global Growth

- Annual infrastructure investment commitments by each partner
- Financing for global infrastructure investments
Domestic Measures to Make Workers and Communities Whole

► Target infrastructure $ to areas w/dislocation
► Expand Appalachian Regional Commission to “Manufacturing Region’s Commission” with additional resources
► Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits for all workers within regions with significant trade-displacement of workers, not just those directly displaced by trade