

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Joint Subcommittee Hearing Will Explore Link Between International Workers' Rights, Economic Growth

Chairmen Russ Carnahan (MO-03), Brad Sherman (CA-27) to Convene Joint Hearing of Subcommittees on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight; Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 AT 2:00 P.M. ET

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressmen Russ Carnahan (MO-03) and Brad Sherman (CA-27) will co-chair a joint hearing of two key House Foreign Affairs subcommittees to discuss the relationship between international workers' rights and the U.S. economy.

Carnahan, chairman of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, and Sherman, who chairs the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, called the joint hearing a unique opportunity to discuss how we can improve economic opportunities for U.S. workers and businesses by establishing a level playing field for workers' rights around the globe. Subcommittee members will hear testimony from U.S. business and workers' rights leaders as well as officials from the U.S. State and Labor Departments.

“As we work to revitalize the American economy and create jobs here at home, we must aggressively seek new opportunities for U.S. companies to gain free and fair access to foreign markets,” said Carnahan. **“A critical component to that effort is rigorous enforcement of international trade laws to help level the playing field for American workers and protect human rights around the world.”**

Last month, Carnahan released his [Regional Jobs Plan](#), which identified expanding trade opportunities and creating a level playing field as a top priority to help boost the economy in the St. Louis region and across the country.

“The inability of other nations to uphold even basic International Labor Rights is a central and growing concern in U.S. trade policy and foreign affairs,” said Sherman. **“This hearing will be an opportunity to explore what steps the U.S. and its trading partners can take to strengthen the global commitment to worker rights.”**

The joint subcommittee hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 10 at 2:00pm ET, and is titled “International Worker Rights, U.S. Foreign Policy and the International Economy.” Witnesses will include:

- **The Honorable Michael H. Posner**, Assistant Secretary for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
- **Sandra Polaski**, Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Labor

- **William Lucy**, Chair of the Executive Council Committee on International Affairs for the AFL-CIO
- **Bama Athreya, Ph.D.**, Executive Director of the International Labor Rights Forum
- **John Murphy**, Vice President of International Affairs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce