

Candidate Questionnaire for Federal Office

Candidate Name: **Esther Kim Varet**

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California Trade Justice Coalition is a statewide coalition of labor, environmental, human rights and community organizations working together to improve U.S. trade policy. Information about our coalition and its mission can be found on our website: <http://catradejustice.org/>

We are interested in knowing what you think about a variety of issues regarding international trade policy. Answers to the following questions will be used to educate voters, highlight trade issues and create voter guides.

Please return a PDF of your completed questionnaire to Mira Rubio by emailing mira@catradejustice.org.

Views on Trade, Labor Rights and Jobs

1. Do you support or oppose requiring that all future trade agreements must include binding labor standards based on the core International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions, that such standards are enforceable by denying market access to non-complying firms, goods and services, and that such rules be implemented and enforced among all parties prior to any new trade agreement taking effect?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

2. Do you support or oppose requiring that trade agreements must explicitly allow for the United States, as well as states and municipalities, to adopt “Buy America” or “Buy Local” government procurement preferences?

Please circle one:

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

Views on “Digital Trade”

3. Do you support or oppose prohibiting so-called “digital trade” agreements from restricting Congress’ ability to make decisions regarding under what conditions people’s personal data may be collected and where and how that information is transmitted, processed and stored?

Please circle one:

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

4. Do you support or oppose requiring that so-called “digital trade” terms in international agreements in no way limit signatory countries from enacting and enforcing consumer privacy, data security, AI accountability, anti-trust and worker protection policies?

Please circle one:

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

Views on Trade and Public Health

5. Do you support or oppose temporarily waiving the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (ie, a “TRIPS waiver”) during times of pandemic so that life-saving vaccines, diagnostic tools and therapeutics can be produced in as many qualified facilities as possible throughout the world?

Please circle one:

Support

Oppose

Additional Comments:

Views on Trade and the Environment

6. Do you support or oppose adding language requiring countries to uphold their commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement to existing and future U.S. trade agreements?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

7. Do you support or oppose requiring that all future trade agreements must include binding environmental standards based on domestic compliance with countries' Multilateral Environmental Agreement obligations, that such standards are enforceable by denying market access to non-complying firms and goods, and that such rules be implemented and enforced among all parties prior to any new trade agreement taking effect?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

8. Do you support or oppose adopting a "climate peace clause," under which countries would agree not to use existing trade and investment rules to attack each other's clean energy transition and climate policies?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

Views on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and Consumer Issues

9. Do you support or oppose removing investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) — a process which allows transnational corporations to challenge environmental, health, zoning and other laws, regulations and court decisions in private tribunals that circumvent the U.S. judicial system — from existing trade and investment agreements, and barring ISDS' inclusion in future agreements?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

10. Do you support or oppose requiring that imported food, toys and other products only be allowed to enter U.S. markets if they meet U.S. safety standards?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

Views on Congress' Role in Trade Policymaking

10. Do you support or oppose insisting that Congress be allowed to vote on any trade agreement with binding terms before the agreement can take effect?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

11. If elected, would you support or oppose strengthening Congress's role in trade policy by instituting a system that includes congressionally-set readiness criteria to determine appropriate trade negotiating partners, binding obligations regarding what must and must not be in future trade agreements, and the right for Congress to vote before an agreement is signed?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

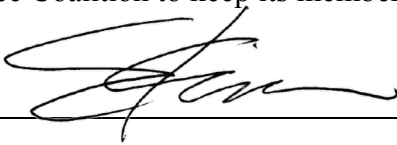
Additional Comments:

12. Would you support or oppose a request by the President to reestablish "fast track" trade promotion authority?

Please circle one: **Support** **Oppose**

Additional Comments:

These answers represent my beliefs, are part of the public record and may be used by the California Trade Justice Coalition to keep its members and the public informed about trade issues.



3/10/26

Signature

Date

Thank you for your willingness to complete this questionnaire. We would like to act as a source of information to you and your campaign, and look forward to working with you over the period of your candidacy, and thereafter.