

YES to Healthy Communities and a Fair Economy !

NO to the Free Trade Area of the Americas!

On November 20th and 21st, trade negotiators from throughout the Hemisphere will meet in Miami, Florida to finalize a free trade agreement that would benefit multinational corporations at the expense of people and the environment.



The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) would expand the disastrous impacts of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to 31 more



nations. In its ten years, NAFTA has forced farmers off the land, increased poverty, driven down working conditions, and undermined environmental and public health laws in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

The FTAA would also grant broad new powers to corporations, and would increase the pressure on governments to deregulate and privatize essential public services.

Negotiations on the FTAA have been ongoing since 1994, without meaningful input from the public or our elected officials. If negotiations are completed and the agreement is brought before Congress as scheduled in 2005, our representatives will only be granted a “yes” or “no” vote, with limited debate and no amendments allowed.

WE CAN STOP THE FTAA!



Now is the time to organize to defeat the FTAA! Millions of people throughout the Americas are taking a stand by “casting a vote” against the FTAA and organizing in their communities. **We are sending a message to our elected officials that we want a trade policy that works for healthy communities and**

a fair economy.

When trade ministers meet in Miami this November, tens of thousands of people from throughout the Americas will be there for parades, teach-ins, forums, marches, and cultural events to showcase what real vibrant democracy looks like. Together we will say, **“No to the FTAA!”**



Cast your vote today to stop the FTAA!



working together
for social and environmental justice
in trade policy

TO: Trade Ministers of the Western Hemisphere and our Elected Officials

**I vote YES to Healthy Communities and a Fair Economy,
NO to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).**

The FTAA is the wrong choice for workers, the environment, family farmers, public health, human rights, and democracy. I urge you to work for a trade policy that puts the needs of people before corporate profits.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please sign me up for the WORC Trade email list.

FTAA Ministerial in Miami

November 17th- 21st

Start Mobilizing Now to Stop the FTAA!

**What would the FTAA mean for the people of the Americas?
The FTAA would...**

Destroy Family Farms. The FTAA would expand NAFTA provisions which have devastated small and independent farmers in the US, Mexico, and Canada by favoring huge agribusiness, keeping commodity prices low and flooding local markets with cheap imports. The FTAA would encourage further concentration of corporate agriculture. FTAA will expand a policy that allows multinational corporations to search the Western Hemisphere for cheap livestock feed and a labor force they can exploit. Many independent producers will be forced out of business, leaving their prime land to be bought by the very companies that drove them from their homes.

Increase Corporate Power. The FTAA would grant corporations special rights to sue governments when public interest regulations constrain corporate profits. Similar rules under NAFTA have already led to challenges of health and safety laws in all three NAFTA countries.

Erode Essential Public Services. The FTAA would deregulate crucial services, eliminating regulations designed to keep our workers and communities safe. The FTAA could also lead to privatization of many essential services such as education, healthcare, energy, water, and more, threatening the social safety net on which the most vulnerable members of our society depend.

Increase Environmental Degradation. The FTAA lacks any meaningful protections for the environment and would restrict the ability of governments throughout the Hemisphere to ensure safe drinking water, clean air, and conservation of natural resources.

Expand the Attack on Workers. Without protections for workers, the FTAA would expand NAFTA's record of reprehensible labor development in Mexico, where border sweatshops proliferated. Since NAFTA 750,000 actual and potential US jobs were lost, and working conditions were degraded in all three countries.

Increase Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. The FTAA would restrict the ability of governments to act in the public interest. FTAA rules would inhibit the ability of governments to ensure access to essential medicines, foods, and public services.

Threaten Immigrant Rights. The FTAA would make America's unfair immigration system even more unfair. It would give employers more freedom to exploit guest workers and do nothing to protect immigrants' rights or provide solutions to long-term immigration problems.

Eliminate Gains for Women and People of Color. The FTAA would threaten programs designed to support women and minorities. FTAA-related job loss would also disproportionately impact women and people of color.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE FTAA

Learn More About the FTAA and What You Can Do. Contact WORC (Western Organization of Resource Councils) 701/376-7077 - billings@worc.org - www.worc.org.

Cast Your Vote by participating in the hemispheric ballot campaign to stop the FTAA. Your ballot, along with thousands of others, will be delivered to trade ministers at the FTAA ministerial this November.

Contact Your Elected Officials. Members of Congress as well as your local Senators and Congresspersons need to hear from you.

Spread the Word. Hold a workshop for your organization, put an article in your newsletter, or write a letter to the editor.

Come Down to Miami November 17th - 21st. Join tens of thousands of people from throughout the Americas converging in Miami to make our demands for fair trade heard!

Place 23¢
Stamp Here

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