

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight

A power point presentation  
by

Janet M Eaton, PhD,  
academic, researcher,  
activist and free trade critic

June 6, 2008

Please forward for general  
use in increasing  
awareness & encouraging  
political action !



New Fair Trade Agenda



NAFTA protests



US State Trade Oversight



Dems Raise  
NAFTA



# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight



Canadian Political Parties



Global Trade Watch



US State Trade Oversight



A New Fair Trade Agenda



NA Task Force on NAFTA Renegotiation



Dems Raise NAFTA

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight

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# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight

NAFTA and free trade agreements in general do not hold out much hope for a just and sustainable world. NAFTA was based on numerous flawed 'free market' assumptions and the evidence continues to grow from think tanks, academics, centres, Institutes, civil society etc that NAFTA has not lived up to its promises. 1

Across North America in Canada, the US and Mexico civil society groups, public policy centres, coalitions and some opposition parties as well as cross border coalitions have grown into a movement to renegotiate NAFTA. The same groups also recognize that the NAFTA -plus, Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (the SPP) was based on the misguided assumption that NAFTA was a success and challenge this secretive approach to deeper economic integration as well. 2 ----- Janet M Eaton, PhD

1. See *NAFTA Oversold, Flawed & Failing* Reference Slide 60
2. See *Globalization, NAFTA & the SPP State House Address* Slide 61



Janet M Eaton, PhD

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight

This researched power point, with quotes, references and images, chronicles the resistance to NAFTA that is rapidly emerging across North America in Canada, US and Mexico. It also documents US State level free trade oversight bills, federal level promises that have emerged in the Democratic Primaries, and US Federal legislation in the works, including the June 4, 2008 T.R.A.D.E Act, which reflect growing public opinion to renegotiate NAFTA and free trade in general.

It is hoped that by tracking and exposing the breadth and extent of this movement for fair trade policies that citizens and politicians alike will begin to realize that the time has come for action. Given the significant evidence of failure of the present 'free trade' system and the extent of resistance documented herein, the recalcitrant and reactionary calls of elite proponents of NAFTA, to maintain the status quo, must be challenged. -- Janet M Eaton, PhD



Janet M Eaton, PhD

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation – North American

*NAFTA Must Be Renegotiated:* A proposal from North American civil society networks

<http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>



North American civil society networks

North American Coalition leaders

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation-North American

Politicians throughout North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States) are beginning to recognize what the majority of citizens already know - the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) promises have not been fulfilled and new policies are urgently needed. There is growing awareness that quality jobs have disappeared, only to be replaced by insecure and low remuneration employment, while income inequality has risen to almost unprecedented levels.

"We four civil society networks from Canada, Mexico, Quebec and the United States believe that **it is absolutely necessary to profoundly revise NAFTA** beginning with those aspects that have proven most damaging for the socio economic and human rights of our peoples and for the environment **NAFTA Must Be Renegotiated: A proposal from North American civil society networks**  
<http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>



North American  
Coalition Leaders



# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation- North American

The revision of the terms of this treaty must have as its objective the establishment of economic relations based on social justice and sovereignty within a paradigm of sustainable development. In this brief declaration we cannot mention all the necessary revisions. **Here are ten priorities for the required renegotiation of NAFTA.**

1. Agriculture
2. Energy
3. Foreign Investment
4. Financial Services
5. Role of the State
6. Employment
7. Migration
8. Environment
9. Intellectual Property Rts
10. Dispute Settlement

***“NAFTA Must Be Renegotiated: A proposal from North American civil society networks <http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>***



North American  
Coalition Leaders





# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation - North American

## Lessons from NAFTA: Building a New Fair Trade Agenda

October 22-23, 2007, Minneapolis, MN

As the three participating countries awaited the final provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to go into effect in 2008, academic experts and farm, labor and environmental leaders gathered at the Minnesota Convention Center to **evaluate the controversial NAFTA trade agreement and develop an alternative fair trade agenda**. The conference explored NAFTA's impact on food and farming, immigration, labor, energy the environment, and future trade agreements.

<http://events.iatp.org/index.php?q=node/4>



**IATP events**

Conferences, workshops and meetings hosted by Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy



**Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**

Where global and local meet sustainability



# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation - North American

On March 5, IATP co-organized a conference in Washington, D.C., *Linking Agriculture, Development and Migration: A Critical Look at NAFTA Past, Present and Future*, to promote an alternative vision for this region among legislators and civil society. Perhaps the most encouraging outcome is that legislators and civil society were able to speak frankly about our moral responsibility to one another in this region and elsewhere.... What we are talking about is *respect* for communities, people and the environment, not just the profits of multinational corporations

***Renegotiate NAFTA? Lives depend on it. And so does the stability of the region.*** Alexandra Speildoch, IATP

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NAFTA Takes the Political Spotlight: It's about time Commentary March 17m 2008  
by Alexandra Speildoch <http://www.iatp.org/iatp/commentaries.cfm?refID=102007>



Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Where global and local meet sustainability



# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation - North American

Following the conference held on March 5th at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, **Parliamentarians from the three NAFTA countries announced a task force on NAFTA renegotiation.**

**“The Task Force on Renegotiating NAFTA, will be chaired by NDP Trade Critic, Peter Julian (Burnaby-New Westminster), U.S.**

**Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), the Honourable Yeidckol Polevnsky (Senator for Mexico State and Vice-president of the Mexican Senate), and the Honourable Victor Quintana (Deputy of the State of Chihuahua, Mexico), with support from their respective political parties. Members of the Task Force undertake to promote within their respective legislatures the renegotiation of NAFTA.”**

*Parliamentarians from the three NAFTA countries announce task force on NAFTA renegotiation.*

<http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=102005>



Hon. Victor  
Quintana



Hon. Polevnsky  
Mexico



Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)



Peter Julian

Member of Parliament  
Burnaby—New Westminster

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Contact  
ndp.ca



# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation – North American

Mexican forum on renegotiating NAFTA, August 6, 2006 From August 2-4, 2006. **Common Frontiers coordinator Rick Arnold joined 3 other Canadians representing Canadian agricultural producers organizations and their lawyers in attending the Forum on Evaluation and Proposals for the Renegotiation of the Agricultural Chapter of NAFTA.** This Forum was held in the Legislative Palace in Mexico City and was attended by over 1,200 people, most of whom were small farmers and campesinos concerned for their livelihood once all tariffs on many agricultural goods are removed Jan. 01, 2008.

[http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/index\\_2006.html](http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/index_2006.html)

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-View the official Declaration from this Forum

[http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/Single\\_Page\\_Docs/Current\\_Activity\\_Updates/Aug06\\_06\\_Mexican\\_Forum.html](http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/Single_Page_Docs/Current_Activity_Updates/Aug06_06_Mexican_Forum.html)



**Common  
Frontiers**

# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation – Mexican

“Four years ago, on Jan. 31, 2003, nearly a hundred thousand Mexican farmers and supporters from unions, universities, and civil society groups marched in the streets calling for renegotiation of the NAFTA chapter on agriculture and new national farm policy that elevated values of food sovereignty and farm livelihoods above free-trade dictums. The Mexican and U.S. governments not only refused to consider changing the draconian terms of the agreement but the Mexican government continued to allow over-quota imports of corn without charging tariffs, to the detriment of its own farmers.

The movement represented the first time that farmers viewed their plight as part of an international system—economic integration under NAFTA—and not just in the context of national farm policies. As a result, **some of the fundamental myths of the free trade model are being questioned as never before in Mexico”**

Laura Carlsen, "NAFTA Free Trade Myths Lead to Farm Failure in Mexico", Americas Program Policy Report, Washington DC, December 2007. <http://americas.irc-online.org/am/4794>



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# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation – Mexican

**“At midnight on 1 January 2008 thousands of Mexican farmers formed a human chain at the Ciudad Juárez border crossing into the United States, under an enormous banner with the slogan Sin maiz no hay país (Without corn there is no country). It was the anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, Mexico and the US, which came into force on 1 January 1994. The farmers were protesting against the introduction of complete trade liberalization at the beginning of this year, which means that maize, beans, sugar and powdered milk, the basic foods of Mexico, are no longer subject to import duty.**

**“In some towns there have been calls for NAFTA to be renegotiated.”**

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*Nafta Will Change A Country's Landscape*

April, 09 2008 By Anne Vigna Source: Le Monde diplomatique

<http://www.zcommunications.org/znet/viewArticle/17108>

# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation – Mexican

**“In Mexico, antipathy to NAFTA is widespread. On January 31, 2008, an estimated 200,000 farmers from all over Mexico descended on Mexico City for a major protest against NAFTA and its recent requirement for removal of corn tariffs.”**

[http://www.rabble.ca/news\\_full\\_story.shtml?x=68794](http://www.rabble.ca/news_full_story.shtml?x=68794)

**“The march took place from the Angel of Independence to the Zocalo to demand that the Agricultural Chapter of NAFTA be renegotiated. Marchers also demanded that the privatization of the energy sector be halted, and that the new Social Security law be repealed. “\***

\* On site report from Rick Arnold, Common Frontiers  
<http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>



# NAFTA Growing Resistance, & Calls for Renegotiation – Mexican

“A burning tractor in Mexico city’s plaza of the revolution a part of a last ditch effort by Mexican farm workers who say their livelihoods are going up in smoke. Hundreds of thousands of them gathered in the capital to protest the entry of cheap subsidized grains from the US and Canada into the Mexican market courtesy of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Some want Mexico to renegotiate the terms of the wide sweeping 1994 agreement –others say a little concern for Mexican farmers would be enough.” -- CNN

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66XmrvzuFdl&NR=1>

CNN - Mexican Farmers Protest NAFTA





# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

## NDP 2006 Platform on NAFTA:



.... we will work on the following key initiatives.

- Transforming NAFTA in order to achieve a fair trade policy. Deeper economic integration with the United States is not working for Canada. In light of recent and on-going trade disputes, **the time has come for the parties to NAFTA to take a new look at the treaty, and to find ways to make it work in the cause of fair trade. We favour elimination of Chapter 11** (which, in our view, unreasonably limits Canada's sovereignty in regulating investment). We also favour **changes** to address the serious shortcomings of the treaty provisions **on energy and water**. These issues require a broad consensus – and **there is a striking consensus emerging about them across Canada**. To build on this growing consensus, **we favour a public review of every aspect of the impact of NAFTA** on the Canadian economy and Canadian public policy including tariffs, dispute resolution, energy, corporate regulation and ownership and culture.

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

**NDP Leader Jack Layton told a conference of American liberals on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 that U.S. Democrats should work with Canada to improve labour and environmental standards in NAFTA.1**

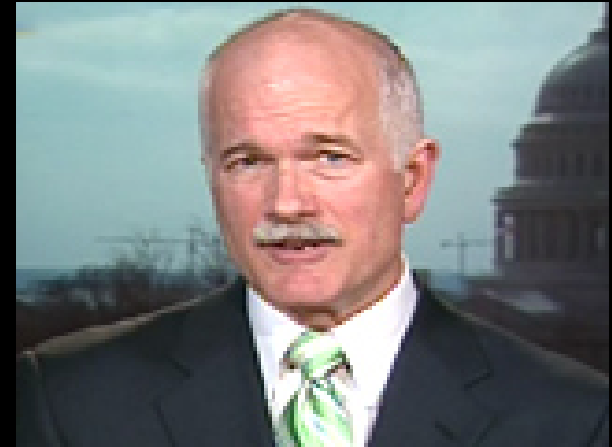
**He said .. “that his calls for changes to NAFTA, particularly for new labour and environmental standards, were well-received....**

**Layton sees an opportunity to re-open the trade agreement after U.S. Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama made calls that they wanted changes for NAFTA..... Earlier this month, Layton sent both Clinton and Obama a letter warmly welcoming the positions of both candidates to "rethink NAFTA". 2**

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1. <http://www.topix.com/forum/news/2008-presidential-election/T8NFT7ETRMCL6LVDI>

2. *Layton pushes NAFTA reform message in Washington*  
Updated Mon. Mar. 17 2008 6:58 PM ET. CTV.ca News staff



**NDP Leader Jack Layton at the 'Take Back America 2008 Conference' in Washington, Monday, March 17, 2008.**

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080317/layton\\_washington\\_080317/20080317?hub=QPeriod](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080317/layton_washington_080317/20080317?hub=QPeriod)

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

## Green Party of Canada Vision Green Platform 2007

- **Immediately provide the required six months' notice of withdrawal from NAFTA. Re-negotiate fair trade principle centred deals with the US and Mexico** which remove offensive disciplines like national treatment, and undemocratic decision-making tribunals. In particular the GPC would **remove Chapter 11, take water out of any new agreement, remove and re-negotiate the energy provision of NAFTA, recognizing Canada's need for an energy reserve, control over exports to be governed by environmental frameworks and an emphasis on inter provincial provision first. Rewrite a fair trade agreement based on principles that protect human rights, workers rights, jobs, and that recognize limits to growth and resources, and ensure that Canada retains its Charter position on limiting property rights.**



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

**Michael Ignatieff, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada** speaking to the Globe and Mail **June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008**, but not in context of official Liberal policy, floated the idea of a national energy policy and **questioned the NAFTA proportionality clause i.e the NAFTA lock-in clause that guarantees existing levels of U.S. supply from Canada.**

**"I look at the east-west linkages that tie our country together and I do wonder whether they are strong enough to offset the north-south flows that dominate our economy. The oil, the natural gas, the hydro - it all flows south. Where is the national grid to share our power, the east-west pipeline to share our oil and to guarantee our energy security as a nation?"**

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*Ignatieff has a vision: a trans-Canada energy highway* by Lawrence Martin, Globe and Mail, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080602.COMARTIN02/TPStory/?query=Michael+Ignatieff+>

**Liberal**

**stronger together**

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA- Canadian

## Canadian Action Party (CAP):

**NAFTA can still be cancelled** and that is exactly what the Canadian Action Party is calling for.

The Canadian Action Party is the only party willing to take the one action essential to regaining national control of Canada's political sovereignty and natural resources - **abrogate NAFTA!**

<http://www.partiactioncanadienne.ca/nau.html>

CANADIAN ACTION PARTY  
PARTI ACTION CANADIENNE CAP-PAC



Connie Fogal,  
Leader CAP

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

## Canadian Labour Congress:

**A determined government could challenge NAFTA constraints to regain some policy space. At the top of the list should be**

- 1. Getting rid of Chapter 11 – which acts as an impediment to regulation in the public interest and makes privatization potentially a one- way street- and**
- 2. The energy provisions especially proportionality sharing Makes sense to re-regulate energy exports by imposing a Canadian needs test and regaining the ability to impose export taxes.**

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Presentation to the CCPA 25th Anniversary Conference “*Living with Uncle: Canada-US Relations in a Time of Empire*” May 27, 2005 Canadian Workers, the Canadian Corporate Elite and the American Empire: *Contradictions of Deep Integration and a Note on Alternatives* by Andrew Jackson,, CLC [http://canadianlabour.ca/updir/Canadian\\_Workers\\_and\\_the\\_American\\_Empire-1.pdf](http://canadianlabour.ca/updir/Canadian_Workers_and_the_American_Empire-1.pdf)



Canadian Labour Congress  
Congrès du travail du Canada

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

## Canadian Labour Congress:

### 3. **Changes to trade arrangements must be part and parcel of a broader alternative economic strategy.** e.g. as in

- higher rates of public investment
- public sector procurement programs
- new institutions – involving labour and community – to develop sectoral job strategies
- financing of keystone new investments by low-cost loan and equity capital from a national sector development bank with lower than market rates of return.

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Presentation to the CCPA 25th Anniversary Conference “*Living with Uncle: Canada-US Relations in a Time of Empire*” May 27, 2005 Canadian Workers, the Canadian Corporate Elite and the American Empire: *Contradictions of Deep Integration and a Note on Alternatives* by Andrew Jackson,, CLC [http://canadianlabour.ca/updir/Canadian\\_Workers\\_and\\_the\\_American\\_Empire-1.pdf](http://canadianlabour.ca/updir/Canadian_Workers_and_the_American_Empire-1.pdf)



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian

## CCPA –Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives



1. **It is time to re-examine our future under FTA/NAFTA**
2. Time to take a comprehensive assessment of its costs and benefits and **take a hard look at the advantages and disadvantages of pulling out of NAFTA.**
3. Time to stand back and **ask is it serving our needs?**

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Bruce Campbell, 2005. *Chapter 1 the North American Deep Integration Agenda in Living With Uncle.* Toronto: James & Co.Ltd



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian

With leading Democratic contenders Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton openly repudiating the North American Free Trade Agreement for its poor labour and environmental standards, the Council of Canadians is demanding that the Canadian government revisit its own commitment to a trade relationship that puts corporate profits before the public interest and the environment.

**“This is an opportunity for our government to recognize that NAFTA and the SPP have undermined our ability to protect the environment, social programs and labour rights,”** says Maude Barlow, the national chairperson of the Council of Canadians. **Harper should join the US (Democratic contenders) call to pull the plug on NAFTA,** says Council of Canadians

<http://www.canadians.org/media/trade/2008/27-Feb-08.html>



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian

Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians has warned that the government must **renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement to prevent bulk water exports** from draining Canada's water resources.

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/politics/story.html?id=f5d0da84-1d9a-4553-949d-100a96535d2f&k=15577>



World Water Day 2008



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

Power for the People: Determining Our Energy Future :: Parkland Fall Conference 2006 :: Gordon Laxer - Netscape Browser



the parkland institute presents

## POWER FOR THE PEOPLE:

determining our energy future

home speakers schedule register info/map volunteers thank you

« speaker overview

**Gordon Laxer**

Session Info:

**Don't "Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark"**

Those unforgettable words, displayed as a bumper sticker on many Albertans cars in the early 1980s, have become Canada's current oil and gas policy. Although Canada is a net exporter of oil, we import almost one million barrels per day to meet 90% of Atlantic Canada's and Quebec's needs, and 40 % of Ontario's. Much of these imports come from unstable OPEC countries, with Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq heading the list. Meanwhile, NAFTA locks Canada into exporting the majority of oil and natural gas to the US. The session outlines what's wrong with this picture, the politics of how it can be changed, and suggests alternatives which will be put to the audience for discussion.

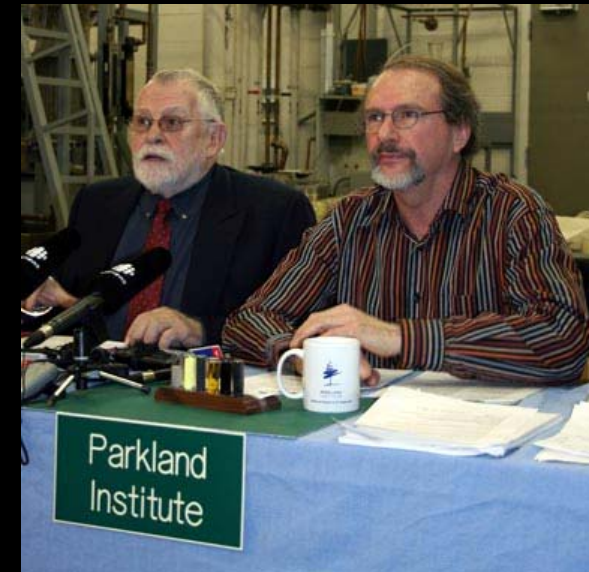
November 19, 10:00 - 11:30 AM (1lenarv)

More info: 780.492.8558 / [parkland@ualberta.ca](mailto:parkland@ualberta.ca)  
Website issues? [Click here](#)

**PARKLAND INSTITUTE**

Done No Full Scan

start 16 Microsoft Office ... Pegasus Mail - [New ... Microsoft Office P... Power for the People... 3:06 PM

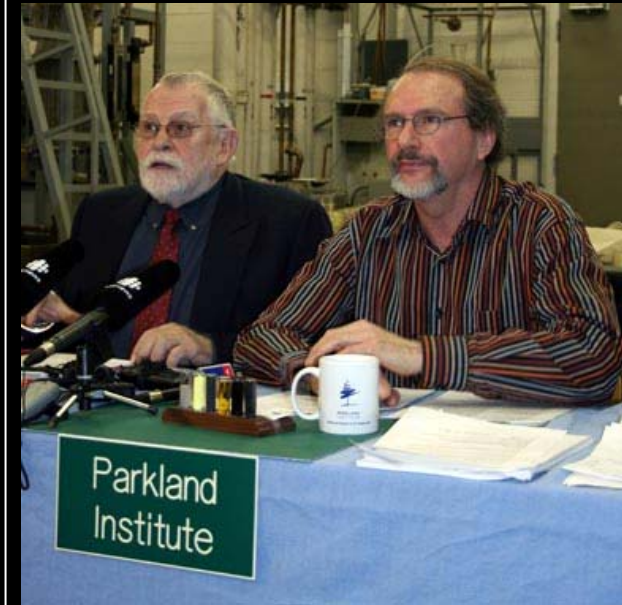


Gordon Laxer, of Parkland Institute on the right

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

**Gordon Laxer Parkland Institute  
suggests options for getting out of  
the energy clause of NAFTA**

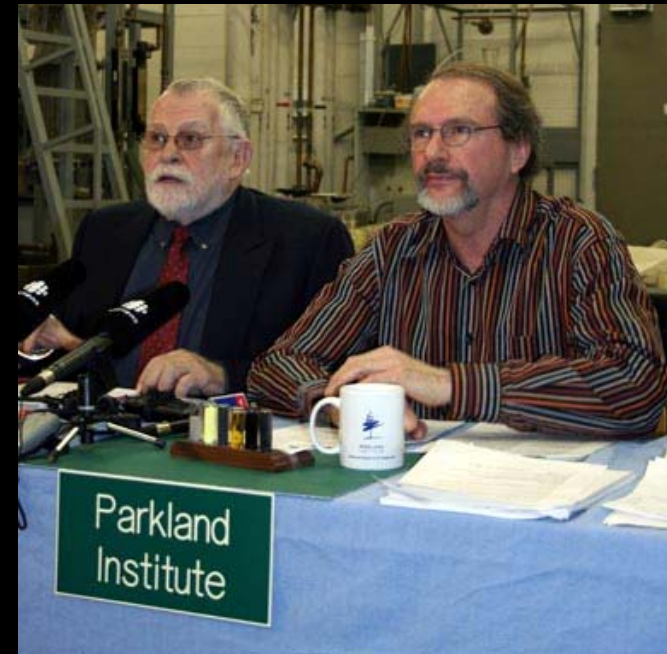
- 1. Reforms to NAFTA**
- 2. Negotiating a 'Mexican' type exemption from the proportionality clause**
- 3. Withdrawing from NAFTA altogether**
- 4. Develop a new Canada First Energy Policy**



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

## Gordon Laxer, Parkland Institute on Energy Policy for Canada

1. Reforms to NAFTA: Subject to Articles 607 (Energy - National Security Measures) and 1018 (Government Procurement Exceptions) nothing in this agreement shall be construed: 'to prevent any Party from taking any actions that it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests' & taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations'



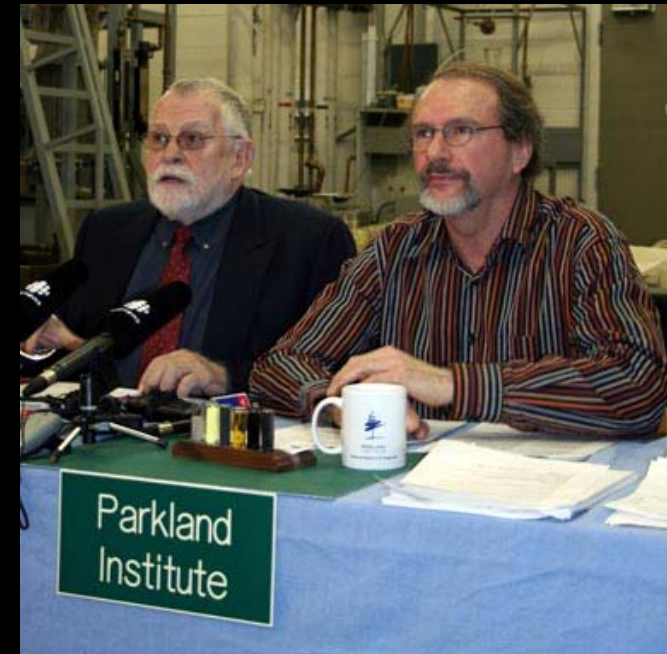
# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

**Gordon Laxer, Parkland Institute**

**2. Negotiating a ‘Mexican’ type  
exemption from the  
proportionality clause.**

**Chrétien Liberal’s Red Book  
promised in 1993 federal election:**

**“A Liberal government will  
renegotiate both the FTA &  
NAFTA to obtain... the same  
energy protection as Mexico”**



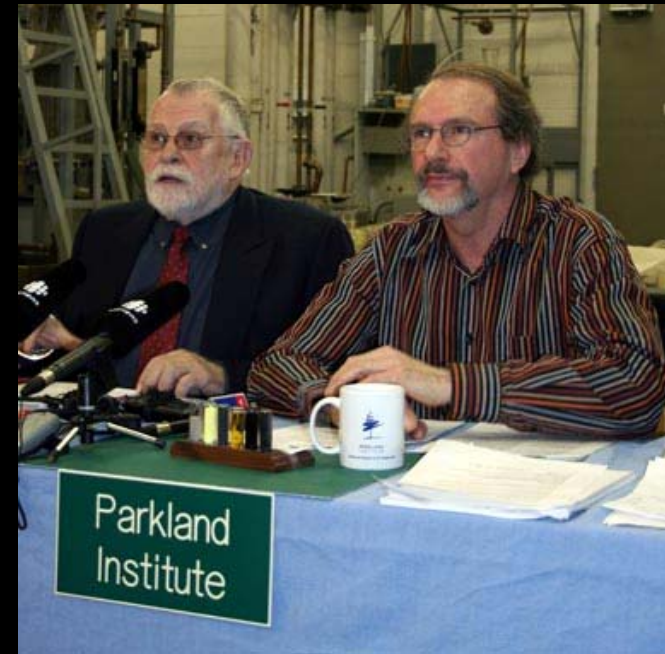
# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

**Gordon Laxer, Parkland Institute**

## 3. Withdrawing from NAFTA altogether

"A party may withdraw from  
this Agreement 'six months'  
after it provides written notice  
of withdrawal to the other  
Parties."

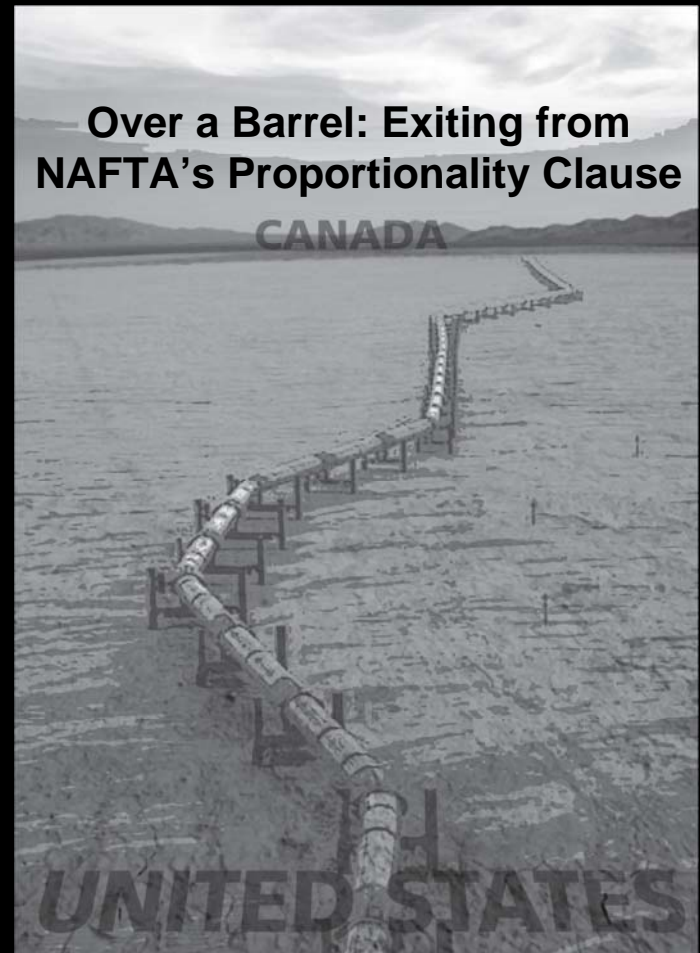
**NAFTA Article 2205**



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian re Ch 6 Energy Clause

We recommend that Canada demand a Mexican-style exemption on proportionality. The timing to get this turned favourable after Barrack Obama pledged in February to renegotiate NAFTA. .... Getting out of proportionality must be Canada's number one goal in such talks. And we must be willing, as Obama himself pledged, to “use the hammer of a potential opt-out (of NAFTA) as leverage to ensure we actually get ... ” what we demand. Making sure all Canadians get through the long, cold winters overrides other considerations. As the Americans said after 9/11, “security trumps trade.” – Laxer & Dillon, 2008. *Over A Barrel: Exiting from NAFTA's Proportionality Clause*

<http://www.ualberta.ca/PARKLAND/research/studies/OverABarrel.pdf>



By Gordon Laxer and John Dillon  
Parkland Institute / CCPA • May 2008



# Calls to renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian

Here's how to get their attention- let's give them 6 months notice as we're entitled to constitutionally under NAFTA –that we're going to pull out. That will get their attention. –

Jim Stanford, economist \*

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\* Jim Stanford, Economist, CAW, Writer Globe and Mail speaking in film Hoodwinked  
<http://www.westdunn.ca/hoodwinked/>



Graphic from film Hoodwinked by  
Linda West and Bill Dunn  
<http://www.westdunn.ca/hoodwinked/>

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – Canadian

According to Dr. Janet Eaton, a NAFTA critic who participated in the Digby Neck Quarry assessment, NAFTA's Chapter 11 Investor State Mechanism is flawed and undemocratic as revealed in a range of studies. **“The fact that this company can challenge the findings of a fair and balanced democratic environmental assessment adds impetus to the many voices calling for NAFTA to be reconsidered in light of all the evidence regarding its many flaws and failures to live up to its promises. We need to re-craft a trade approach with the US, one that recognizes the asymmetry in the relationship and one which is based on 'fair trade' principles that address the imperatives of the environment, community values, Canadian sovereignty, poverty and job creation.”** – Excerpt SCC Press Release

*NAFTA Challenge blatant attempt to intimidate.*

<http://www.sierraclub.ca/atlantic/programs/economies/digbyquarry/press.htm>



Site of Digby Neck Quarry  
NAFTA Challenge



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA - Canadian

IN THE HOUSE ~ **Private Member's Motion** ~ on renegotiating NAFTA to foster fair trade .

M-474 — March 31, 2008 — **Mr. Julian** (Burnaby—New Westminister) — That, in the opinion of the House, **the North American Free Trade Agreement must be renegotiated** to foster fair trade to benefit all the people of Canada, the United States and Mexico.



**Peter Julian**

Member of Parliament  
Burnaby—New Westminister

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# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

Workers, environmentalists, farmers, small and large businesses, community groups, and immigration-rights advocates all have their own take on how NAFTA can and should be fixed.

- Our top priority would be to strengthen the weak labor and environmental side agreements
- The NAFTA investment chapter should also be revisited.. eliminating the investor-state dispute settlement provision
- Services, intellectual property rights, government procurement, status of our trade laws, and agriculture have all had some unintended consequences and should be reexamined. -Thea M Lee, AFL-CIO Policy Director

What should the Next President do on NAFTA? Council on Foreign Relations Online Debate  
<http://www.cfr.org/publication/15704/>



Thea M Lee, Policy Director,  
AFL- CIO

**AFL-CIO**  
*America's Union Movement*

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

In the United States, there is a growing awareness that NAFTA has contributed to the destruction of one in four U.S. manufacturing jobs and prompted a decline in real wages. **The promise by both Democratic frontrunners to open up and renegotiate NAFTA is a reflection of growing public concern.**

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[http://www.rabble.ca/news\\_full\\_story.shtml?x=68794](http://www.rabble.ca/news_full_story.shtml?x=68794)



Senators Clinton & Obama

Photo Credit <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/politics/story/427CA875FE6EBC1886257445000E3DE2?OpenDocument>

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

**Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama both threatened to take the United States out of the North American Free Trade Agreement if elected president, warning Canada and Mexico the deal is dead unless America wins concessions to strengthen labour and environmental standards. During a nationally televised debate in Cleveland, the two Democratic presidential candidates suggested Canada and Mexico would be given just six months to make compromises on the deal in order to satisfy the U.S. government.**

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/world/selection/story.html?id=336356>



Senators Clinton & Obama

Photo Credit <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/politics/story/427CA875FE6EBC1886257445000E3DE2?OpenDocument>

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

**"NAFTA's shortcomings were evident when signed and we must now amend the agreement to fix them. While NAFTA gave broad rights to investors, it paid only lip service to the rights of labor and the importance of environmental protection... We must add binding obligations to the NAFTA agreement to protect the right to collective bargaining and other core labor standards recognized by the International Labor Organization. Similarly, we must add binding environmental standards so that companies from one country cannot gain an economic advantage by destroying the environment. And we should amend NAFTA to make clear that fair laws and regulations written to protect citizens in any of the three countries cannot be overridden simply at the request of foreign investors." \***

\* Senator Obama responding to a February 18 questionnaire by the Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition  
<http://www.wisconsinfairtrade.org/>



Sen. Barack Obama

Photo credit:  
[http://n.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack\\_Obama](http://n.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama)

# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

**U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) introduced the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Accountability Act, H.R. 4329. The legislation requires the United States to renegotiate NAFTA. If the negotiations do not produce specific, concrete improvements, it calls for America to withdraw from the agreement.**

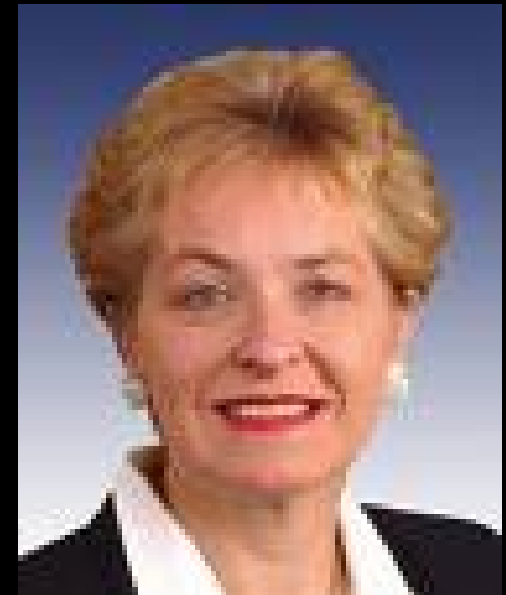
**“I join my colleagues from Maine to California in demanding a new, equitable model for free trade among free peoples.”**

**The bill is co-sponsored by Representatives Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Phil Hare (D-IL), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Mike Michaud (D-ME), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Betty Sutton (D-OH), and Raul Grijalva (D-AZ).**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 10, 2007**

**Contact: Emily Boening (202) 225-4146**

**[http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=175&Itemid=1](http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=175&Itemid=1)**



**Marcy Kaptur( D-OH)**



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

**US Greens urge Congress to enact the following Renegotiate NAFTA and other international trade agreements, which have caused economic devastation in Mexico and other Latin American nations as well as the loss of US jobs: current policies, which drive down wages for the benefit of corporate investments, dump US products on their markets, and uproot workers and their families, must be replaced with 'fair trade' agreements that protect and increase wages and benefits. Fair trade and policies that help working people instead of corporate lobbies will ensure economic stability, ending the flood of desperately poor and newly unemployed immigrants into the US after passage of NAFTA.**

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Press Release *Greens urge immigration reform based on human rights, not paranoia* Green Party of the United States [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org) Wednesday, May 23, 2007



# Calls to Renegotiate NAFTA – US

It's not just Democrats who want a time out. **Six in 10 Republican voters** said that free trade had hurt the U.S. and that they **would support tougher import restrictions**, according to a Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll in October.

**“We’re seeing the strongest opposition to free trade expansion in recent memory,”** said Eric Farnsworth, vice president of the **Council of the Americas**, a Washington-based business group that promotes open markets in the Western Hemisphere. **“NAFTA has become symbolic of the fears and apprehensions of globalization in general.”**

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<http://articles.latimes.com/2008/mar/03/business/fi-nafta3>

# US Federal Legislative Oversight of NAFTA Sens Brown & Dorgan's Bill - Federal

“A proposal by Senator Sherrod Brown (D Ohio) and Senator Byron Dorgan (D- ND) would make new trade agreements harder to pass ‘unless they are accompanied by a more thorough financial analysis’ The Washington Post reported **their bill would end the practice of flying blindly into the free trade abyss by forcing governments to provide estimates of potential job losses with any trade pact.** Congress currently makes trade policy without even asking about the consequences.”

David Sirota .*The Upside of Nationalism* In These Times. April 2008  
[http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3577/the\\_upside\\_of\\_nationalism/](http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3577/the_upside_of_nationalism/)



Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)



Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

# US Federal Legislative Oversight of NAFTA - Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn)

“Rep. Keith Ellison (D Minn) is developing a proposal that would give non-profit groups and individuals the same enforcement powers that corporations enjoy. Ellison floated a truncated version of this concept during the 2007 debate over the Peru FTA arguing **if a trade deal gives a corporation the right to sue in international courts for enforcement of investor rights, then individuals and advocacy organizations should also have the same right to sue for enforcement of other rights such as labour, environment etc.** A democratic administration could incorporate this forward thinking into the core text of any future trade pact.”

David Sirota .*The Upside of Nationalism* In These times. April 2008 [http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3577/the\\_upside\\_of\\_nationalism/](http://www.inthesetimes.com/article/3577/the_upside_of_nationalism/)



Rep Keith Ellison (D Minn)

# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA

**Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania and a few other States in the US have State level legislation establishing 'commissions' charged with overseeing the impacts of free trade agreements on State sovereignty. Massachusetts is currently in process of moving the Globalization Impact Bill, Bill H.374 (recently renumbered H 4705), through their legislature.**

[http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn\\_display1.php?row\\_ID=28](http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn_display1.php?row_ID=28)

[http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn\\_display1.php?row\\_ID=21](http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn_display1.php?row_ID=21)

**Why A "Globalization Impact Bill"?**

**Toward Passage of H.374 in 2008: From NAFTA to the Burma Bill, and now SPP, global corporate rule poses a continuous threat to local democracy**



# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - MA

## Proposed Legislation: Globalization Impact Bill

### Presentation House No. 374

## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the year two thousand and seven

Resolved, That a special commission is hereby established for the purpose of evaluating the continuing impacts on state laws and regulations by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its current agreements including, but not limited to, expansion of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and by similar instruments such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Said Commission shall report to the legislature and to our federally elected officials and to the public on such impacts. The commission shall recommend when the commonwealth may support or withhold support for any proposed revisions or amendments to WTO agreements, NAFTA agreements, GATS, FTAA, and similar instruments.

[http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn\\_display1.php?row\\_ID=22](http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn_display1.php?row_ID=22)



Massachusetts State  
House, Boston

# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - Vermont

## Legislation : Introduced 2006

**Act No 212, § 8: Establishing of the Vermont Commission on International Trade and State Sovereignty.**

The bill outlines membership including Chair of House Committee on Commerce, Chair of Senate Committee on Economic Development..., Secretary of Commerce & Community Development, Attorney General, Vermont Exporting business rep, business rep involved in international trade, non-profit Environmental Organization rep, labor rep,

**Powers and Duties – see next slide**

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<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/WorkGroups/Trade/EstablishingAct.htm>



**Vermont State house**

<http://www.central-vt.com/web/sthouse/index.html>

# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - Vermont

## Powers and duties: Vermont Commission

- (1) The commission shall conduct an annual assessment of the legal and economic impacts of international trade agreements on state and local laws, state sovereignty, and the business environment.
- (2) It shall provide a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns, ...to make policy recommendations .. designed to protect Vermont's job and business environment, and state sovereignty from any negative impacts of trade agreements.
- (3) It may recommend legislation or preferred practices and shall work with interested groups in other states to develop means to resolve the conflicting goals and tension .... between international trade and state sovereignty.
- (4) In response to a request from the governor or the general assembly, or on its own initiative, the committee shall consider and develop formal recommendations with respect to how the state should best respond to challenges and opportunities posed by a particular international agreement.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/WorkGroups/Trade/EstablishingAct.htm>



Vermont State house

<http://www.central-vt.com/web/sthouse/index.html>



# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - New Hampshire

**Legislation: Introduced May 2007... SENATE BILL 162: New Hampshire**

**AN ACT** establishing a commission to oversee and negotiate issues relative to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This bill establishes a citizens trade policy commission to evaluate the impact of existing and proposed international trade agreements on the ability of the state of New Hampshire and its municipalities to pass laws and ordinances regarding public health and safety, environmental protection, labor standards, state and local procurement, and the provision of public services.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2007/SB0162.html>



**New Hampshire State House**

# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - Maine

**Maine's Citizen Trade Policy Commission** was established by the Maine Legislature in 2004 to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements. The Commission includes Legislators from at least two political parties and citizens representing a wide variety of Maine constituencies impacted by trade.

*An Act To Establish the Maine Jobs, Trade and Democracy Act*  
<http://maine.gov/legis/opla/citpolleg.PDF>



Maine State House  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine\\_State\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_State_House)

# US State Level Legislative Oversight of FTAs / NAFTA - Maine

## Maine Public Hearings Assessment –Outstanding!

Peter Riggs assessment suggested that in the last two years the Commission had achieved many of the purposes for which it was established, and had come to be seen nationally as a successful model for state oversight and engagement on trade issues.

“We conclude that the following were of particular importance to the effectiveness of the Commission:

- 1) High levels of inter-branch communication,
- 2) Clear communications with Maine’s Congressional delegation
- 3) Public hearings around the state.

No other state oversight committee/commission has taken its “show on the road”; we feel that this has been Maine’s most significant contribution to the national debate on trade, and a role/approach that we hope will be emulated by other states.”

*DRAFT Assessment—for Citizen Trade Policy Commission review Forum on Democracy and Trade <http://mainegov-images.informe.org/legis/opla/ctpcassess06.pdf>*



# New US TRADE Act Introduced June 4, 2008

On Wednesday June 4, 2008 Democratic Party lawmakers Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-Maine) introduced the TRADE Act wherein the United States would review and potentially renegotiate all existing U.S. trade deals.. The bill lays out new labor, environmental, food safety, investment, intellectual property, anti-dumping and other standards for trade agreements. It also sets a June 2010 deadline for the U.S. Government Accountability Office to review existing trade deals including NAFTA and more recent accords with Central American countries. Labor groups joined the Sierra Club, the National Farmers Union and Public Citizen in backing the legislation

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Lawmakers, citing Obama, urge U.S. redo trade deals By Doug Palmer  
June 4, 2008

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2008/06/04/lawmakers\\_citing\\_obama\\_urge\\_us\\_redo\\_trade\\_deals/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2008/06/04/lawmakers_citing_obama_urge_us_redo_trade_deals/?page=full).



Sen. Sherrod Brown  
(D\_Ohio)



Rep. Mike Michaud  
(D-Maine)

# New US TRADE Act Introduced June 4, 2008

## Landmark T.R.A.D.E Act (Trade Reform, Accountability, Development & Employment Act)

The presidential primary season highlighted broad public concern about current trade and globalization policies. Now, legislation has been introduced in Congress offering a way forward to a new trade and globalization agenda that could benefit more Americans. The bill is supported by a broad array of labor, consumer, environmental, family farm and faith groups.

Release Public Citizen Supports Landmark *TRADE Act* Addresses American Public's Demand for Change During Presidential Campaign With a New Way Forward on Trade, Globalization. June 4, 2008 <http://www.citizen.org/>.



**PROTECTING** HEALTH, SAFETY & DEMOCRACY  
National Non-Profit Public Interest Organization

Global Trade Watch

Lori Wallach  
director

# New US TRADE Act Introduced June 4, 2008

The legislation requires a review of existing trade pacts, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other major pacts, and sets forth what must and must not be included in future trade pacts. It also provides for the renegotiation of existing trade agreements and describes the key elements of a new trade negotiating and approval mechanism to replace Fast Track that would enhance Congress' role in the formative aspects of agreements and promote future deals that could enjoy broad support among the American public.

Release Public Citizen Supports Landmark Trade Expansion Legislation *TRADE Act Addresses American Public's Demand for Change During Presidential Campaign With a New Way Forward on Trade, Globalization.* June 4, 2008

<http://www.citizen.org/>



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Global Trade Watch

Lori Wallach  
director

# Conclusion: Renegotiate NAFTA

- The evidence continues to grow from think tanks, academics, Centres, Institutes, civil society, etc that corporate free market economic globalization has failed, and that NAFTA, based on numerous flawed 'free market' assumptions has not lived up to its promises.
- Given the significant evidence of failure of the present 'free trade' system and the extent of resistance documented herein, the recalcitrant and reactionary calls of elite proponents of NAFTA, to maintain the status quo, must be challenged

-- janet m eaton, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008



# Conclusion: Stop the NAFTA-Plus SPP

- **The same groups also recognize that the NAFTA -plus, Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (the SPP) was based on the misguided assumption that NAFTA was a success along with the Bush administration's undemocratic 'security trumps all' framework and they challenge this approach to deeper economic integration which was implemented at the executive level and regulatory levels without public, Parliamentary or Congressional scrutiny.**

-- janet m eaton, June 6th, 2008





# Conclusion: Examine Economic System

All three countries need legislated, democratic and inclusive mechanisms to examine the future of their economies and to explore alternate economic and trade models based on (i) analyses of 25 years of a failed free market global corporate economic system (ii) analyses of the emerging collapse scenarios which will severely limit and conscribe future economic growth and trade (iii) analyses of emerging local, regional and bioregional principle-centred political economic, and fair trade models which aim for a more ecologically sustainable and just world (iv) re-invention of progressive, positive national government (v) a just, democratic and sustainable international system to replace flawed ad hoc globalist approaches. -- janet m eaton, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008



# *References to Related Power Point Presentations*

## ***NAFTA at 13 – Oversold, Flawed & Failing and the basis of the NAFTA- Plus SPP***

**Public Lecture  
Sponsored by ActCity Ottawa  
Oct 24, 2007**

**By Janet M Eaton, PhD,  
Researcher, Part-time  
Academic, Activist  
[jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca)**



**Image courtesy of the Institute  
for Agriculture & Trade Policy (IATP)**

<http://ato.smartcapital.ca/actcity?go=16345>

# *References to Related Power Point Presentations*

**Globalization, NAFTA & the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America: Backgrounder and Issues**

**Prepared by  
Janet M Eaton, PhD  
for an address at the  
State House MA in  
support of Bill H374,  
the *Globalization  
Impact Bill***

**March 18, 2008**

**jmeaton@ns.sympatico.ca**



**State House, Boston**

**[http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn\\_display1.php?row\\_ID=27](http://www.newenglandalliance.org/sn_display1.php?row_ID=27)**

# References to Related Power Point Presentations

## Threats to Our Water: NAFTA, SPP, Super- Corridors, Atlantica



North American  
Free Trade Agreement



By Janet M Eaton, PhD  
Created October 2006, Updated May 16, 2007

[www.sierraclub.org/cac/water/](http://www.sierraclub.org/cac/water/)

# NAFTA Growing Resistance & Calls for Renegotiation & Oversight –The End

A power point presentation by Janet M Eaton, PhD,  
**PLEASE FORWARD**  
For general use in increasing awareness & encouraging action !!



New Fair Trade Agenda



NAFTA protests



US State Trade Oversight



Dems Raise NAFTA