Everything You Need to Know About the Bill for...

US Withdrawal from NAFTA

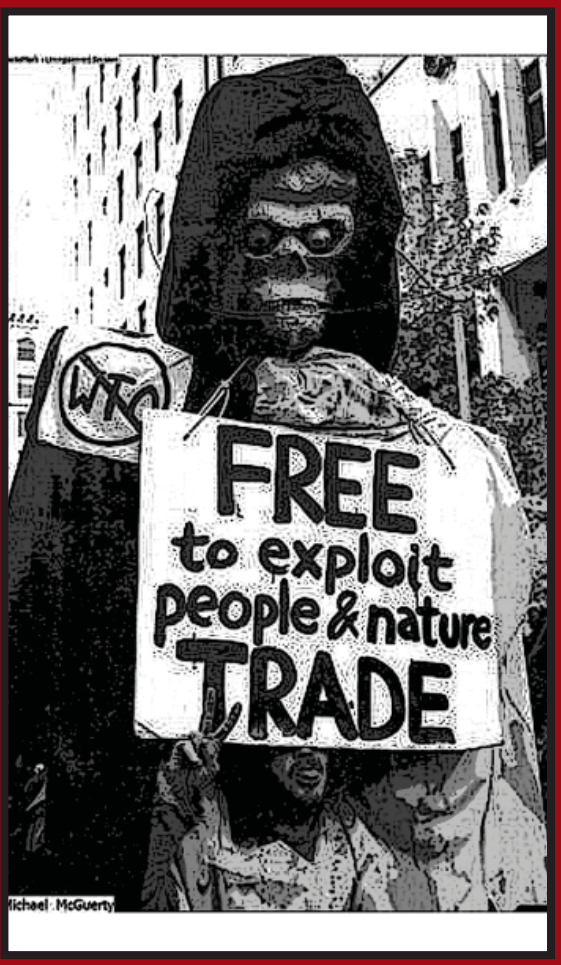
Official Title: H.R. 4759 To Provide for the Withdrawl of the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement

Introduced: Mar. 4, 2010 House, Legislative Stage: Committee

Sponsors: House- Representative Gene Taylor (D-MS4) with 27 co-sponsors

What It Would Do:
This bill would repeal US involvement in NAFTA. Six months after its passage, the US would leave NAFTA.

Why Some People Are For It:
1) There are major concerns about the trade deficit that now exists between the US and Mexico. It is reported that prior to NAFTA the US has a $1.7 billion trade surplus with Mexico. Now the US has a $47 billion deficit, down from $75 billion at its peak.
2) NAFTA has hurt US manufacturing and sent jobs to Mexico.
3) This would decrease the incentive for immigration to the United States because fewer Mexican farmers would be run out of business.



Why Some People Are For It:
1) Due to US corn subsidies, local Mexican farmers are unable to compete with major US corn producers. Besides decreasing the variety of corn types in Mexico, which has impacted the Mexican diet negatively and increased farmers' susceptibility to a major disease destroying monocrops, this has led many rural Mexicans to seek jobs in the US and in urban areas. This hurts rural communities, separates families, and increases the burden on major cities already unable to deal with the influx of rural workers and their impact on local services.
2) NAFTA has led to an increase in the prevalence of maquiladoras, which besides underpaying and often exploiting their workers, does not adequately take into account the safety of their largely female work force.
3) This so-called "free trade" agreement has created a strange hierarchy between humans and goods, in which goods and corporations may easily permeate borders, but labor cannot. By creating an economic incentive for avoiding national regulations, this encourages corporations to relocate to wherever environmental regulations and labor are most exploitable. Labor does not have the same option to freely locate to the most beneficial country for workers.

What You Can Do:
Contact your representative and tell them your reasons for supporting these bills. We are also happy to work with other grassroots groups on our campaign to improve trade, please contact us.

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