

Trade Activism Across the Country



During our National Week of Action against three NAFTA-style trade deals with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, activists raised their voices and delivered their message to Congress. And it worked! The votes on the NAFTA clones have been delayed until September.

THE MESSAGE BOARD

We received many reports via our message board from fair traders all over the United States and abroad.

Rachel from New York wrote, “I’ve sent the ‘Don’t Screw America’ postcards to my Representatives.” Florida constituent, Jeff Fox, emailed his Congressmen and submitted letters to two local newspapers. Bonnie from Massachusetts also shared her efforts with us: “I have called my Representatives and am preparing a letter to the editor of my local paper.”

Meanwhile, Larry Stotts submitted an opinion piece to Hutch Newspaper in Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Stotts wrote about the damaging economic effects the Korea, Colombia, and Panama FTAs will have on our country: “These agreements hurt American workers and communities by lowering wages and killing jobs.”

IN THE BIG APPLE

In New York, Long Island native and American University student Nick decided to make some noise during Monday morning rush hour.

Along with other college students, Nick held a large banner across an overpass overlooking a major highway near their Representative’s district office. The banner read: Steve Israel, Defend U.S. jobs, Vote No Korea FTA.

PENNSYLVANIA SUCCESS

Not too far from the Big Apple, our Citizens Trade Campaign affiliate, the Pennsylvania Fair Trade Coalition held a demonstration outside of Congressman Jason Altmire’s office.

The protesters called on their Representative to oppose the Colombia trade deal— and with success. Representative Altmire immediately released a statement committing to vote against the heart-breaking agreement with Colombia.

DEMONSTRATORS AT THE NATION’S CAPITAL

In our nation’s capital, activists from the United States and Colombia gathered in front of the White House for a demonstration against the Colombia trade deal. The coalition was comprised of faith, labor, human rights, and consumer organizations. Hundreds at the protest expressed their outrage at the very notion that the United States would enter a trade agreement with a country notorious for labor and human rights abuses.

Protesters and onlookers also had the opportunity to hear from leading experts in the movement, including TransAfrica Forum’s President Nicole Lee, United Steelworkers Senior Counsel Daniel Kovalik, and the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Rich Chase. At the close of the demonstration, activists displayed 51 coffins in front of the White House to symbolize the Colombian union leaders murdered in 2010.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

We thank you all for taking action and making our first Week of Action against NAFTA clones a success. We encourage you to continue turning up the heat this summer before the vote. The month of August will be crucial as members of Congress will be in their hometown offices. It’s the perfect opportunity to make sure they hear from all of us before heading back to Washington, D.C. in September.

August Recess: Turn Up the Heat

1. Call your Representative. Keep urging him or her to oppose the Korea, Colombia, and Panama trade deals.
2. Gather your friends and fellow activists and organize a call-in day, rally, or a visit to your Representative’s office.
3. Use your social networks to get the word out. And be sure to follow us on Facebook & Twitter.
4. Visit our Action page at www.citizen.org/tradeaction. Get all the resources you need to get your Representative’s attention.