

The 1994 **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** required the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to adopt numerous policies giving corporations new rights that were used to export good jobs, jack up drug prices, attack food safety and environmental laws and squeeze farmers and consumers alike. Twelve years later we're living the damage caused by the NAFTA model: wages stagnating as prices rise, 3 million U.S. manufacturing jobs killed, and an \$800 billion trade deficit that threatens global economic stability. Mexico also lost factory jobs, as corporations traded Mexico's \$5/day wages for China's \$1/day wages. Some 1.3 million Mexican *campesinos* lost their livelihoods, and hunger and desperate migration to the United States have increased.



Now the Bush administration hopes to expand this failed NAFTA model into South America, starting with **"free trade agreements" with Peru, Colombia and Panama**. Bush hopes that by getting a Democratic Congress to okay the Peru, Colombia and Panama FTAs, he will be able to incrementally push Congress to give him **"Fast Track"** trade authority. He wants to blur political lines – drawing in Democrats step-by-step to allow him to continue his failed trade policy, despite the clear *"no"* to staying the course on trade" signal the public sent in the 2006 elections. Fast Track would be Bush's power tool to drive through more NAFTAs. It hands over the Congress' exclusive constitutional authority to set our trade policy, thus ensuring that Bush and a few corporations control what goes in (and stays out) of our trade agreements.

The new Democratic majority **MUST** stop the Peru, Colombia and Panama NAFTA expansions. As well as helping working people in all nations involved, this will send President Bush and the public a clear message: the time has come that Congress can and will overhaul U.S. trade policy so that it meets the interests of working people, safeguards our environment, and promotes democracy – rather than attacking these basic values we all share.

Because the Peru, Colombia and Panama FTAs are based on NAFTA, people in these nations know the damage they will suffer, and have held major protests. Meanwhile, after living the NAFTA era of depressed wages, devastated manufacturing jobs, and gutted environmental and food safety protections, the American people used the 2006 elections to replace dozens of NAFTA-supporters in Congress with those who have pledged to fight for fair trade alternatives. The Fair Traders in Congress now are a majority. Finally, we really can win! Yet, the NAFTA-boosters are hard at work trying to reverse our victory. **We must speak up now and tell Congress to send these offensive trade deals back to the drawing board.**

Tell Congress that expanding NAFTA to Peru, Colombia, and Panama is a bad idea

Call the U.S. Capitol Today 202-224-3121 to be connected to your House Representative. Then ask to get transferred to your Senators.

- ❖ Just give your zip code to be connected to your House Representative if you are not sure who he or she is!
- ❖ When you are connected to your representative and senators' offices, ask for the staffer handling trade issues. Tell him or her that you oppose expanding NAFTA to Peru, Colombia and Panama.
- ❖ Ask for your rep and senators' positions on the three NAFTA expansions, **in writing** by email or regular mail.
- ❖ ***They need to hear from you NOW.*** Use a local or personal story of damage from bad trade deals to illustrate your case or use the talking points on the back of this flyer.
- ❖ After you've called, share with us what you were told. This is key to our holding Congress accountable. Contact David Edeli at Public Citizen at dedeli@citizen.org or (202)-454-5111.

Talking Points on U.S.-Peru, U.S.-Colombia, U.S.-Panama FTAs:

More NAFTA would be bad for our economy. With the highest U.S. trade deficit ever, and a major U.S. export being our best jobs and entire manufacturing base, we can't afford any more NAFTA-like trade deals. If Congress allows the Peru, Colombia or Panama FTAs, **big corporations will use these deals to ship more U.S. jobs away and push down the wages of jobs staying here.** More family farmers and small businesses will go bankrupt. *We must change this broken trade model!*

The Peru, Colombia and Panama FTAs are threats to regional and international security: The agricultural rules in these agreements will devastate small South American farmers' crops of corn, rice and beans, just as NAFTA's rules devastated Mexican peasant corn growers. *Campesinos* would be forced to migrate to overcrowded cities and to the United States, or else to grow more opium poppies and more coca for **cocaine production** or to **join illegal armed groups.** *It isn't worth creating more instability in a fragile, war-torn region just so big corporations can make extra profits.*

The Peru and Colombia FTAs endanger the environment – targeting the Amazon, the lungs of the planet. The upper Amazon basin in Peru and Colombia is among the most bio-diverse areas on earth, but it also very much at risk. Deforestation, horrific pollution, and health disasters from oil production and mining are widespread already. The special foreign investor privileges in these FTAs empowers corporations to pillage the area for timber, mineral and energy resources, and would chill direly needed efforts to protect the Amazon basin. *Deals like the Peru, Colombia and Panama FTAs gut environmental protections.*

The Peru FTA would lock in social security privatization in Peru. Under an undemocratic regime in the 1990's, Peru partially privatized its social security system – exactly what the U.S. public rejected here when it was proposed by President Bush. The result in Peru has been a disaster for the poor and elderly, but provisions in the Peru FTA would allow Citibank or other U.S. investors that provide "private retirement accounts" to sue Peruvian taxpayers if Peru tries to reverse the failed privatization. *Americans don't want our own social security system privatized, so how can we use trade agreements to go around forcing other countries to have privatized systems?! That is a terrible precedent.*

It is immoral to put Big Pharma's drug profits over human lives. Talk about protectionism! The Peru, Colombia and Panama FTAs include new monopoly patent rights Big Pharma got put in that will jack up prices for essential medicines – **causing people cut off to die unnecessarily from HIV/AIDS** and other treatable diseases. *Big Pharma's rip-off of sky-high drug prices that we suffer must not be exported to other nations!*

The Peru and Colombia FTAs are a stepping stone to a hemisphere-wide NAFTA called the FTAA which would pose a massive threat to U.S. farmers: The Peru, Colombia and Panama pacts are part of a Bush administration strategy to pressure more progressive governments in Latin America into reversing opposition to FTAA – and to put FTAA into effect country-by-country. Even the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that an FTAA would lead to surges of Brazilian and Argentine agribusiness exports of beef, citrus, sugar, soy, and cereals. Export surges from these nations' agribusinesses countries would **seriously undercut U.S. family farmers.** *We need to fix the trade system that has lead to rock-bottom commodity prices and American family farm bankruptcies, not expand it.*

"The United States is spending billions trying to eradicate the cocaine trade and here we are giving them an incentive to grow more coca." -Joseph Stiglitz, former World Bank Chief Economist on threat of NAFTA-style pacts in Andean nations.

"We are certain that the trade agreement will increase the cultivation of coca, which brings along with it a series of negative consequences including drug trafficking, terrorism and violence." -Pedro Barreto, Archbishop of Huancayo, Peru.

For More Information about the Peru, Colombia, and Panama-U.S. FTAs, visit www.tradewatch.org

