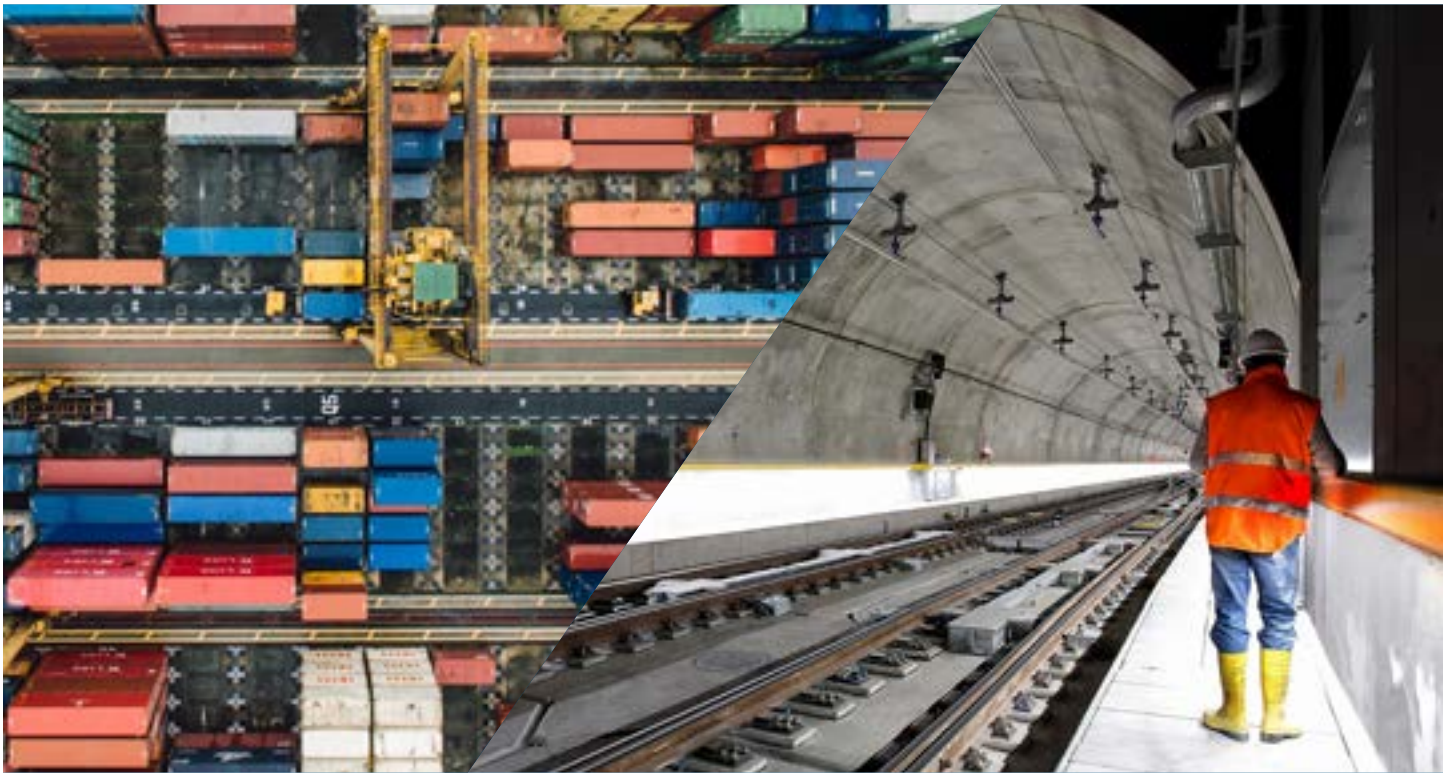

Green New Deal vs. Trump's NAFTA Deal

Want a Green New Deal? Reject Trump's Pro-Polluter NAFTA Deal.

In late 2018, two competing deals were being hatched. As Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Markey drafted a Green New Deal (GND), Donald Trump signed a trade deal with Mexico and Canada — a rebrand of the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

These two deals are fundamentally at odds. While a GND offers a bold and essential plan to tackle climate change, create good jobs, and fight inequity, Trump's NAFTA 2.0 would do precisely the opposite. Trump's NAFTA deal denies climate change and would help corporate polluters continue to shift jobs and pollution across borders, fueling environmental and economic inequity.

The Trump administration could submit its NAFTA 2.0 deal to Congress at any point, posing a major threat to future GND implementation. To eliminate this threat, Congress must reject Trump's NAFTA deal. Below are several specific ways that Trump's NAFTA 2.0 would undercut GND goals and policies.

Five Ways that Trump's NAFTA Deal Threatens a Green New Deal

1. While a GND would help slash climate pollution, Trump's NAFTA deal would help corporations dodge GND policies by shifting their climate pollution to Mexico. Trump's deal fails to even mention climate change and most of its environmental terms are not binding. The deal's lack of binding climate and environmental standards leaves intact NAFTA's incentives for corporations to evade U.S. environmental protections by outsourcing pollution and jobs. For example, when the U.S. enacted policies in 2009 to cut lead pollution, corporations dodged the stricter standards by using NAFTA to export lead waste to Mexico free of charge, spurring job loss in the U.S. and toxic lead poisoning in low-income border communities. Under NAFTA 2.0, corporations could similarly dodge GND climate policies by exporting their climate pollution and jobs to Mexico. This climate loophole would severely weaken a GND, as greenhouse gas

emissions still fuel climate change if they come from the other side of the border.

2. While a GND calls for massive growth in clean U.S. manufacturing, Trump's NAFTA deal would undercut such growth. For example, some have suggested that a GND should include "buy local" policies to encourage local manufacture of wind turbines, solar panels, light rail components, and energy efficient building materials. Such policies — which already exist in seven U.S. states — can help ensure that workers and local communities capture the gains of the transition to a clean energy economy. But Trump's NAFTA deal doubles down on rules that have been used to challenge such green industrial policies in U.S. states, threatening future GND incentives to expand U.S. manufacturing. Even more, NAFTA 2.0 would encourage further outsourcing of U.S. manufacturing by letting corporations produce goods in countries with lax environmental standards and then export them to the U.S. free of charge.
3. While a GND would help us transition to 100% clean energy, Trump's NAFTA deal would help corporate polluters lock in fossil fuel dependency. While a GND would invest in clean transportation solutions like affordable electric vehicles and clean public transit, NAFTA 2.0 would encourage continued dependency on oil and gas. In fact, Trump's NAFTA deal includes new terms that would make it cheaper for oil corporations to export more Canadian tar sands oil — the world's most climate-polluting fuel — through U.S. oil pipelines. NAFTA 2.0 also preserves a bad NAFTA rule that, in combination with a bad U.S. law, prevents the U.S. government from determining whether gas exports to Mexico are in the public interest. This gas export guarantee has encouraged increased fracking in the U.S., expansion of cross-border gas pipelines, and growing dependency on climate-polluting gas in Mexico.
4. While a GND requires urgently strengthening our environmental protections, Trump's NAFTA deal would provide corporate polluters opportunities to delay or weaken new environmental policies. Enacting a GND will require reversing the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks once Trump leaves office and swiftly enacting a new generation of protections for our climate, air, and water. But Trump's NAFTA 2.0 includes binding regulatory rules — not found in any prior U.S. trade agreement — that could derail this historic responsibility. These new rules would ensure that corporate polluters can challenge proposed environmental regulations before they are finalized, and request that existing environmental regulations be "repealed." Such rules could prolong Trump's polluting legacy and delay enactment of a GND at a time when more delays spell more climate disasters.
5. While a GND includes support for global climate action, Trump's NAFTA deal would let Chevron and ExxonMobil sue Mexico in private tribunals for enacting new climate policies. NAFTA 2.0 offers broad rights to oil and gas corporations that have, or may at some point have, government contracts for offshore drilling, fracking, oil and gas pipelines and refineries, or other polluting activities in Mexico. If Mexico were to enact new climate, air, water, or health policies that threaten such toxic investments, corporate polluters like Chevron and ExxonMobil could use their broad NAFTA 2.0 rights to challenge the new policies before unaccountable tribunals of private lawyers. Such corporate threats could jeopardize the urgent GND goal of supporting bold climate action across borders.

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