



Stop Fast Track

Make Trade Clean, Green, and Fair!



"Fast track" trade legislation -- the Trade Promotion authority Act of 2001 (H.R. 2149) -- imperils the environment in our own communities. It would help create new international rules that allow global corporations to attack our hard-won environmental safeguards.

Please take urgent action (see reverse side) to stop fast track. Congress could vote as soon as September or October.

President Bush wants fast track to negotiate sweeping new trade agreements, such as a proposed expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) throughout the Western Hemisphere. But under fast track, Congress would give up the power to fix trade deals made by the President--even if those deals threaten the environment and workers' rights.

By expanding NAFTA, Bush would increase opportunities for foreign corporations to sue national governments if laws, regulations, or courts interfere in any way with the company's ability to do business.

Already, corporations have used these provisions in NAFTA to attack a California law to protect drinking water from a hazardous gasoline additive, a Mexican state's decision to block a toxic waste landfill, and standards in Canada that controlled trade in toxic waste.

If expanded through fast track, corporations could use these rules to throttle environmental progress and a cost to taxpayers in the billions. We need to replace fast track with "right track" trade authority to ensure that future trade deals do not undercut our laws and, instead, require enforceable labor and environmental standards.

Don't Drink the Water!

Last year, a Canadian chemical corporation sued the US government for nearly \$1 billion over California's decision to phase out the hazardous gasoline additive MTBE that is polluting drinking water across the country.

No US court would ever have heard such a lawsuit. But under NAFTA, a secretive, three-judge tribunal will soon decide whether US taxpayers must pay a large fine because California tried to make its water safe to drink.

Take Action!

Use these "talking points" to write letters or make phone calls to your US Representatives.

- Send letters to:
The Honorable [NAME OF YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE]
US House or Representatives
Washington, DC 20515.
- Place calls toll free by dialing 1-800-393-1082, courtesy of the AFL-CIO.

"Talking Points" for Calls and Letters

- I am deeply concerned that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) gave foreign corporations dangerous new powers to sue governments and undercut our hard-won environmental safeguards.
- Rather than fix the problem, President Bush wants "fast track" authority to expand NAFTA to the rest of the Western Hemisphere. If he succeeds, more corporations could sue to block environmental safeguards at a cost to taxpayers in the billions.
- Under fast track, Congress would give up the power to fix trade deals made by the President--even if those deals threaten the environment and workers' rights.
- Bush can't be trusted with fast track, a "blank check" that he could use to promote corporate power at the expense of our environment.
- **I urge you to vote against any fast-track bill, including the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001 (H.R. 2149). Amendments won't fix the fundamental problems with fast track.**

For further information visit our web sites at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/trade> and <http://www.ssc.org>