August 5, 2019

Dear Representative,

For too long, unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have contributed to climate change, economic insecurity, and toxic pollution. NAFTA has harmed communities across North America – particularly working families and communities of color – by helping corporations outsource jobs and climate pollution to Mexico, dump toxins on border communities, push fossil fuels, and undermine our hard-fought environmental protections.

Since the 1990s, the Sierra Club – the nation’s largest and oldest grassroots environmental organization – has advocated for changes to NAFTA to rectify these critical problems. We did so again when the Trump administration announced it would renegotiate NAFTA. Before, during, and after the negotiations, we joined other leading environmental groups to call for concrete changes to curb NAFTA’s damage to our communities. In the end, the Trump administration ignored us.

Unfortunately, Donald Trump’s NAFTA 2.0 deal fails to remedy most of NAFTA’s environmental threats, and in some ways would make matters worse. The current deal would encourage further outsourcing of pollution and jobs, offer special handouts to notorious corporate polluters, lock in fossil fuel dependency, and prolong Trump’s polluting legacy for years. The deal not only fails to mention climate change – it would prolong NAFTA’s contribution to the climate crisis.

Currently, a team of Democratic members of Congress is working to try to eliminate these fundamental problems by negotiating meaningful changes to the current deal. We appreciate this initiative and are actively supporting the effort, while we continue to actively oppose the pro-polluter deal on the table.

We urge you to vocally oppose Trump’s current NAFTA 2.0 deal and to only support a renegotiated deal if essential, fundamental changes are made to curtail NAFTA’s damage to our communities. At a minimum, any deal must include:

- Binding climate standards to curb outsourcing of climate pollution and jobs
- Binding clean air, water, and land standards to halt the dumping of pollution in Mexico
- Obligations to fulfill commitments under an array of key multilateral environmental agreements
- A new, independent and binding enforcement system to stop environmental violations
- Removal of handouts to corporate polluters that support tar sands oil and fracked gas
- Elimination of broad rights for corporate polluters to sue Mexico over environmental policies in tribunals
- Elimination of rules that would help corporate polluters weaken and delay our environmental regulations

We urge you to publicly call for these baseline changes to protect our communities and to oppose any NAFTA 2.0 deal that would further harm our air, water, and climate.

Sincerely,

Michael Brune
Executive Director

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