

CLIMATE ALERT



Tell President Obama to Dump the Bush Administration's Hangover, Climate Killing Free Trade Agreements!

Many people know that NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, was bad for our economy—but did you know that it was bad for the environment, too?

Before leaving office, Bush negotiated NAFTA-style free trade agreements (FTAs) -- with Panama, South Korea, and Colombia that have yet to be voted on by Congress. These agreements, if ratified by Congress, will significantly contribute to global warming. But instead of dropping these bad Bush deals, Obama's Trade Representative, Ron Kirk, intends to push for Congressional ratification of these agreements. Endangered forests ecosystems like the Amazon are at risk as a direct result. The Obama administration and the Democratic leadership in Congress claim these trade agreements will be good for the environment—they are dead wrong.

Free trade agreements contribute to global warming

- NAFTA's proportionality clause requires Canada to make two-thirds of its domestic oil production and 60 percent of its current natural gas production available for export to the U.S., even if this requires exporting gas and oil needed for domestic consumption. To meet this demand, climate critical boreal forests are being clearcut to access sands infused with bitumen, extremely heavy crude oil that generates 10 to 30 percent more greenhouse gasses than conventional crude oil. Separating the sand from the bitumen and refining the bitumen into lighter crude are energy intensive processes and consume enormous quantities of natural gas.

- FTAs shift global agriculture towards industrial scale production and fossil fuel consuming farm machinery, at the expense of "low-tech", sustainable farmers.

- 18-25% of global warming can be attributed to deforestation. FTAs contribute to deforestation by destroying the economy for local farmers, who lose their lands and proceed to cut down forests for fuel and new farmland (documented by Oxfam International and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)).

- FTAs contribute to a global shift towards US-style meat-centered diet. Livestock and their by-products are responsible for 51% of greenhouse gas emissions, the largest single contributing factor to human-caused climate change.

- FTAs Lead to increased use of "factory farm" agriculture. Factory farms are energy intensive and consume massive quantities of fossil fuels.

- FTAs challenge environmental selective purchasing agreements (e.g. bills that require governments to buy recycled products and prohibit purchasing of wood from endangered forests) under trade agreement procurement rules.

- Many free trade agreement include investor protections rules that allow oil, mining, gas, and timber interests to sue governments that cancel environmentally destructive projects for lost potential future profits.

- FTAs contribute to a shift towards globalization of consumption, undermining ecologically friendly "buy local" campaigns and contributing to vast consumption of fossil fuels in transportation of products to market via trucks, airplanes, and ships.

- FTAs contribute to deforestation through road construction for bringing commodities to market (e.g. Plan Pueblo Panama and I-69.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Learn more about how free trade agreements contribute to climate change by viewing our online presentation at <http://gjae.org/show>

- Write, call, fax, and email your Senators and Representatives to urge them to publicly state their opposition to the Bush-negotiated Panama, Colombia, and South Korea Free Trade Agreements and explain why these trade agreements will exacerbate climate change. You can find out who represents you and their contact information at <http://gjae.org/lookup>

- Volunteer or intern with Global Justice for Animals and the Environment. Join our efforts to stop anti-environmental free trade agreements, through lobbying, protest, community education, and the mass media. To learn more, visit gjae.org/volintern.

- Make a donation to Global Justice for Animals and the Environment.. Make checks out to Wetlands Activism Collective and wrote "GJAE" in the note or contribute online at <http://gjae.org/donate>.

Global Justice for Animals and the Environment

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