

Oppose U.S. Entry into a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

A Resolution Addressed to the United States Congress

- 1. Whereas** our nation has suffered the loss of almost 900,000 jobs because of the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and
- 2. Whereas** the *Christian Science Monitor* stated in November 2003 that “Free trade is one of the key factors behind a continuing plunge in the number of U.S. manufacturing jobs – from 19.3 million in 1980 to ... about 14.6 million today”; and
- 3. Whereas** NAFTA has forced a wider opening of America’s southern border for entry by legal and illegal immigrants including, as former Mexican national security adviser Adolfo Aguilar Zinser has stated, “Spanish and Islamic terrorist groups”; and
- 4. Whereas** in 1994 Republican House leader Newt Gingrich, a WTO supporter, revealingly identified the World Trade Organization as “the United Nations of World Trade” while pushing for congressional approval of U.S. entry into this global “free trade” group, and whereas he also acknowledged that by joining the WTO “we are transferring from the United States at a practical level significant authority to a new organization.... This is not just another trade agreement”; and
- 5. Whereas** during the mid-2000 consideration of House Joint Resolution 90 calling for U.S. withdrawal from the WTO, Texas Congressman Ron Paul accurately stated: “The most important reason why we should get out is to maintain our nation’s sovereignty. We should never deliver to any international governing body the authority to dictate what our laws should be. And this is precisely the kind of power that has been given to the WTO”; and
- 6. Whereas** in late 2003, in the wake of the European Union’s threat to boycott American products if our nation refused to bow to a WTO demand to cancel a tariff on imported steel, United Steelworkers president Leo W. Gerard asked, “Will [Mr. Bush] exercise his sovereign right as president to protect the jobs and survival of the entire American steel industry, or will he knuckle under to the threat of economic blackmail being leveled by the European Union?”; and
- 7. Whereas** on December 4, 2003, President Bush caved in to this pressure from the WTO and the European Union by canceling the U.S. steel tariff; and
- 8. Whereas** NAFTA tribunals now claim the authority to overrule the decisions of American courts and make awards to Mexican and Canadian businesses that the U.S. government must pay, and whereas Abner Mikva, a former chief judge of the federal appeals court in Washington and a former congressman, has stated: “If Congress had known there was anything like this in NAFTA, they would never have voted for it”; and

9. Whereas President Bush has stated his intention to have Congress place the United States in a new 34-nation Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) after January 2005; and

10. Whereas, based on U.S. experience with NAFTA and the WTO, U.S. membership in the planned FTAA would increase manufacturing flight and the loss of quality jobs and further undermine border security and national sovereignty;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that

(name of organization)

respectfully but firmly urges all members of Congress to vote **NO** on any agreement for the U.S. to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Documentation Corresponding to Numbered Paragraphs

1. Robert E. Scott, "The high price of 'free' trade," Economic Policy Institute, Briefing Paper #147, November 17, 2003. Cited in a report by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in November 2003.
2. David R. Francis, "'Free Trade' takes increasing hits," *Christian Science Monitor*, November 6, 2003.
3. Terence P. Jeffrey, "Mexican Diplomat Charged With Helping Smuggle Arabs Into U.S.," *Human Events*, January 5, 2004, p. 8.
4. House Ways and Means Committee hearings regarding the WTO as quoted in "How Can Gingrich Support the WTO?" *Human Events*, December 2, 1994.
5. Congressman Ron Paul, "Say 'NO' to the WTO," *The New American*, April 24, 2000, pp. 23-25.
6. "WTO Dictating U.S. Trade Policy," *The New American*, December 1, 2003, p. 8.
7. David E. Sanger, "Backing Down on Steel Tariffs, U.S. Strengthens Trade Group," *New York Times*, December 5, 2003.
8. Adam Liptak, "NAFTA Tribunals Stir U.S. Worries," *New York Times*, April 18, 2004.
9. President Bush's speech to a joint meeting of the Organization of American States and the World Affairs Council, January 16, 2002.
10. William F. Jasper, "The Unfolding FTAA Battle," *The New American*, May 3, 2004.