



Legislation Text

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030708
SUBSTITUTE 2

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Substitute resolution expressing Common Council opposition to the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement and urging Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional delegation to support trade agreements which protect sovereignty and strengthen labor and environmental standards.

This resolution expresses Common Council opposition to the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement and urges Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional delegation to support trade agreements which protect sovereignty and strengthen labor and environmental standards.

Whereas, The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is an effort to expand to all of the countries in the western hemisphere, except Cuba, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) model of increased privatization and deregulation and lowered barriers to the movement of jobs, investments and goods without safeguarding labor and environmental standards; and

Whereas, The expansion of NAFTA model through an FTAA agreement is currently being negotiated in secret by trade ministers from 34 nations in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, without allowing for any effective public evaluation and input; and

Whereas, As of December 31, 2002, more than 3,390 Milwaukee workers have been certified as eligible to receive assistance under a special NAFTA unemployment program, NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which offers help to workers whose companies have been impacted or are threatened as a direct result of the increased imports or shifts in production to Mexico or Canada under NAFTA; and

Whereas, The more than 3,390 Milwaukee workers who have been certified as eligible to receive NAFTA TAA represent only a fraction of the total Milwaukee jobs from well known Milwaukee companies such as Johnson Controls, Master Lock, Square D, Rockwell Automotive and Tower Automotive which have been directly or indirectly impacted as a result of trade with or a shift in production to Canada or Mexico; and

Whereas, According to the international human rights organization Global Exchange, when workers who have been dislocated as a result of NAFTA find new jobs, the workers earn 23 percent less on average than at their previous employment; and

Whereas, Imposition of the FTAA and similar trade agreements would undermine labor rights and cause greater job loss, lead to privatization of essential services, jeopardize consumer and environmental protection and increase poverty and inequality; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Common Council expresses its opposition to the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Common Council urges Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional delegation to support trade agreements which protect sovereignty and strengthen labor and environmental standards; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the City Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional delegation.

LRB03398-3

RGP

9/23/03

Co-sponsors added 10/6/03. mbh