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TRADE JUSTICE EVENT:

NAFTA Town Hall at Sacramento State, Feb. 23:

NAFTA Renegotiation Must Prioritize Workers and Community Health Across Borders, Say Sacramento Labor and Environmental Advocates

Sacramento, CA — With President Trump promising to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Sacramento labor and environmental advocates are calling on his administration to follow an open, public process with the goal of broad economic benefits for working people and improved community health in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

“If NAFTA’s renegotiation is dominated by the same corporate elites that gave us NAFTA in the first place, things could become even worse for working families, public health and the environment in all three countries,” said Aaron Lehmer-Chang, Director of the California Trade Justice Coalition. “Simply stating he will renegotiate NAFTA tells us nothing about whether President Trump will stand up for workers and the environment. The real question is if he will replace them with better trade policies or just more corporate power-grabs.”

So far, the Trump Administration has not laid out detailed plans for what changes he will pursue in NAFTA renegotiations. The California Trade Justice Coalition’s national affiliate, [the Citizens Trade Campaign, has released a set of policies on its website that outline priority strategies](#) to benefit workers, consumers, farmers, trade-impacted communities, and the environment.

To ensure California’s congressional leaders are ready to fight for working families and the environment, the California Trade Justice Coalition and its allies are hosting a series of town halls across the state, highlighting voices from communities that have been impacted by NAFTA and other corporate trade agreements, while promoting trade policies that can improve local economies, communities, and environmental health across North America. Their first NAFTA Town Hall will take place at Sacramento State University on February 23rd (see details below).

Organized labor is particularly concerned that NAFTA renegotiations actually produce real benefits for workers. “If Trump is serious about using NAFTA to benefit working people, he can show it by making all NAFTA negotiations transparent to the public, rather than making them in closed-door rooms where big corporations pay to play,” said Robert Longer, Legislative-Political Director of Communications Workers of America - Local 9421.

With so many environmental crises still worsening, NAFTA renegotiation could also make or break conditions for communities across North America. “A renegotiation of NAFTA could bring real benefits for public health and the environment,” said Katie Valenzuela Garcia, a local environmental justice leader. “We need strong, enforceable environmental protections that bring clean jobs to our communities, not more reliance on business as usual.”

SACRAMENTO NAFTA TOWN HALL DETAILS:

WHERE: Sacramento State University, Folsom Hall, Room 1050
7667 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95826

WHEN: Thursday, February 23rd from 5:30 to 7 pm