

USW NEWS RELEASE

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USW REACT TO US HOUSE VOTE APPROVING CAFTA

Pittsburgh (Jul. 28) – The United Steelworkers (USW) issued the following react by President Leo Gerard to the early morning US House vote to approve CAFTA.

“The showdown in the House of Representatives that eked out a 217-215 approval of CAFTA was a vote for big business and not for America’s working families.

“It’s proof there’s no consensus in Congress on the future of trade policy. I’m proud of the efforts by our members who contacted their congressional members urging a vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Steelworkers made thousands of calls, wrote thousands of letters and joined rallies against CAFTA all across America.

“The AFL-CIO’s team on the stop CAFTA campaign was tireless. The bi-partisan leadership of Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) deserve our admiration for their public commitment and vote against the job-destroying deal negotiated by the Bush Administration.

“CAFTA lacked protections for workers’ rights, it threatens good paying middle-class jobs, it expands the openings for companies to move out of the U.S. and it allows foreign employers to contest our environmental laws.

“The 15 Democrats who voted wrong deserve the wrath of all working Americans, and the 27 Republicans who voted right against CAFTA deserve our thanks.”

Democrats who voted wrong: Bean (IL); Cooper (TN); Cuellar (TX); Dicks (WA); Hinojosa (TX); Jefferson (LA); Matheson (UT); Meeks (NY); Moore (KS); Moran (VA); Ortiz (TX); Skelton (MO); Snyder (AR); Tanner (TN); Towns (NY).

Republicans who voted right: Boustany (LA); Capito (WV); Coble ((NC); Cubin (WY); Foxx (NC); Garrett (NJ); Goode (VA); Gutknecht (MN); Hostettler (IN); Hunter (CA); Jindal (LA); Jones (NC); LoBiondo ((NJ); Mack (FL); McCotter (MI); McHenry (NC); McHugh (NY); Miller (MI); Ney (OH); Norwood (GA); Otter (ID); Paul (TX); Rehberg (MT); Simmons (CT); Simpson (ID); Smith (NJ); Tancredo (CO).