



Citizens Trade Campaign

CAFTA Toolbox

- ⇒ **FIND NEW ALLIES!** Have you reached out to farmers? How about your local interfaith alliance? What about public service workers? What about your County Commissioner or other local elected officials? Host a CAFTA strategy meeting for local leaders and bring these voices together.
- ⇒ **EDUCATE!** CAFTA is still a new idea for many. Utilize the attached fact sheets to reach out to other constituencies. Ask them to join your coalition, educate their own members, pass an organizational resolution, participate in a lobby visit, or write an op-ed.
- ⇒ **MAKE IT PUBLIC!** Host a townhall meeting on trade and its impacts on your state. Invite your local and federal representatives and schedule community leaders to testify. There are many Central America solidarity organizations that can put you in touch with speakers from Central America. Or you can organize a worker, farmer, or women's exchange with Central America. Be sure to incorporate the media and your elected representatives.
- ⇒ **ENGAGE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS!** Meet with your state legislators, governor, council members, or other local elected officials. Ask them to pass the attached sample Local Resolution on CAFTA. Ask them to contact your Member of Congress, send a letter to the Administration, or to host a public hearing on local trade impacts.
- ⇒ **USE THE ELECTIONS!** Birdog candidates as they make public appearances – ask them to commit to opposing CAFTA. Ask organizations that do candidate surveys to include trade questions. Send the attached sample letter to candidates in your state, or to the presidential campaign offices. Check your local laws regarding leafleting outside the polls.
- ⇒ **PRESSURE YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS!** Now is the time to visit your Member of Congress. Arrange Lobby visits by different constituencies in your state. Ask for a commitment on CAFTA. Follow up with requested information. If your rep is sympathetic, ask him or her to send a letter to the Administration or USTR, or to circulate a “Dear Colleague” letter within Congress. Organize a Congressional Delegation to parts of your state that have bit hit hardest by trade.
- ⇒ **HIT THE PRESSES!** Submit Letters to the Editor or Editorials to your local papers. Organize a meeting of your best spokespeople with the Editorial Board of your local paper. Call local reporters and talk to them about trade impacts Start developing a relationship which will come in handy in the future. Call up reporters and editors of trade stories – good and bad. Don't forget to utilize local TV and radio including cable news outlets. Be sure to invite reporters to your events. Don't forget alternative newspapers like agricultural or college papers.
- ⇒ **GET LOUD AND CREATIVE!**
- Hold a NAFTA, CAFTA do we Hafta? rally outside your Rep's office. Plant black flags or tombstones representing lost jobs, farms, restricted access to medicines, or shutdown factories.
 - Get local farmers to deliver corn, cows, or other commodities that would be affected by CAFTA to your Rep's office as a press event. Tell your Rep you've got a “BEEF” with CAFTA.
 - Challenge your Member of Congress publicly to a NAFTA job hunt. Write an op-ed citing local NAFTA-related job loss, and challenging your Member to identify one job created by NAFTA in your district.
 - Hold a CAFTA Job (loss) Fair outside a Congressional office. Have activists there representing corporations that have shipped jobs overseas. They should have posters describing the job losses they are offering.

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CITIZENS TRADE CAMPAIGN IS A COALITION OF LABOR, ENVIRONMENTAL, RELIGIOUS, FAMILY FARM, AND CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS UNITED IN THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN TRADE POLICY.