



DON'T TRADE AWAY OUR ENVIRONMENT OPPOSE THE U.S. - PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The Bush Administration forced the controversial Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) through Congress last summer with a slim two-vote margin. The extremely close vote was due to many fundamental concerns raised by Members of Congress – including the lack of strong and enforceable labor and environmental provisions, and the increasingly broad rights granted to corporations to attack public health and environmental provisions.

Now the Bush Administration has presented Congress with another trade agreement – the U.S. - Peru Free Trade Agreement is based on the same flawed provisions as those found in CAFTA. The agreement offers only token, unenforceable provisions on labor and the environment, while dramatically expanding the rights of corporations to attack legitimate public health and environmental protections in secret trade tribunals.

Marked by snow-capped peaks, vast forests, and the echoing cry of Andean condors, the tropical Andes is the richest and most diverse region on Earth. Of the tens of thousand of plant and animal species in the Andes, many are endemic and irreplaceable. Far too many are also threatened with extinction by expanding agriculture, deforestation, mining, dams and road building. In addition, oil exploration and development is a relatively new and serious threat on the eastern slopes of the Andes and the adjacent Amazonian lowlands of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE EXPANSION OF NAFTA TO PERU:

- 1. Call your Member of Congress TODAY and urge her/him to oppose this flawed agreement.**
- 2. Write a letter to your Representative and ask her/him to clarify their position on the U.S. - Peru FTA**
- 3. Contact the Responsible Trade Program for more information and updates. Get involved in local Sierra Club Fair Trade activities by contacting susan.knight@sierraclub.org.**

TALKING POINTS:

Weak environmental standards: The U.S. - Peru FTA contains the same weak and unenforceable environmental provisions found in CAFTA. There is no requirement for a country to maintain and effectively enforce a set of basic environmental laws and regulations, and there is no parity between the enforcement provisions of the environment and those of the agreement's commercial chapters.

Corporate lawsuits attacking the environment and public health: Like CAFTA, the U.S. - Peru FTA would allow foreign investors to challenge health and environmental regulations for cash compensation before international tribunals, bypassing domestic courts.

Threat to biodiversity: The U.S. - Peru FTA ignores the right of indigenous and local communities to the traditional knowledge that is fundamental to the conservation and sustainable use of the vast biodiversity of the region.

For more information visit www.sierraclub.org/trade or contact our trade campaigner, Susan Knight at susan.knight@sierraclub.org