

TALKING POINTS AGAINST STEVENS AMENDMENT

- o A vote for the Stevens amendment is a vote to kill the NAFTA. No one who supports the Stevens amendment can claim to be a supporter of the NAFTA.
- o This is not a vote on the side agreements. It is a vote on the NAFTA itself. By opening the NAFTA implementing bill to amendments, the Stevens amendment dooms the entire NAFTA.
- o Moreover, a vote for the Stevens amendment is a vote against all future trade agreements with any country. The amendment destroys the process by which Congress approves trade agreements, and it destroys the President's ability to negotiate trade agreements.
- o Adoption of the Stevens amendment will undermine the authority of the President to negotiate trade agreements at the very moment he is meeting with our Asian and Pacific Rim trading partners at the APEC summit in Seattle. It will cancel the mandate to open foreign markets given to the President by the strong vote of the House of Representatives on Wednesday night.
- o Adoption of the Stevens amendment also will destroy any chance of achieving a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations under GATT. It will reverse the vote of the Senate this past July in favor of completing those negotiations.
- o The Stevens amendment will prevent the United States from concluding trade agreements with Chile, Argentina, or any other country of Latin America.