

SIERRA
CLUB



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NAFTA ANALYSIS REVEALS ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

October 15, 1993

Dear Senator:

After carefully reviewing details of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its environmental side agreement, the Sierra Club concludes that this NAFTA is fatally flawed. The Sierra Club believes NAFTA should be rejected and a new agreement negotiated.

The enclosed Sierra Club Analysis of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, prepared by the Club's international environmental policy experts, cites the fatal flaws in NAFTA and the side agreement that could result in a net loss of environmental protection for North America.

A careful evaluation of NAFTA and its side agreement reveals that they promise much but deliver little.

Sierra Club's analysis points to a number of flaws including:

- * The bold print says NAFTA does not threaten U.S. federal and state environmental laws. But the fine print allows challenges to these laws as trade barriers.
- * The bold print says governments won't "harmonize down" health, safety or environmental laws. But the fine print sets up a committee that can, in fact, negotiate lower standards.
- * The bold print says challenges to NAFTA won't weaken state environmental laws. But the fine print says the federal government must make states comply with decisions made by a NAFTA dispute panel when state laws are challenged as trade barriers.
- * The bold print says the public can complain to a new trade commission when countries don't adequately enforce their environmental laws. But the fine print says the public is shut out of this NAFTA dispute settlement process where democratically-enacted environmental laws are challenged as trade barriers.

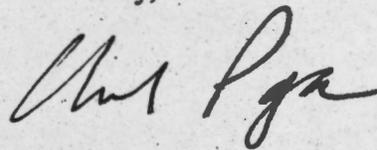
"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." *John Muir*
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- * The bold print says wildlife will be protected. But the fine print says we can't use trade regulations to protect wildlife outside our territory in the global commons.
- * The bold print says we'll spend \$9 billion to clean up the United States-Mexico border. But the fine print says most of the money is merely authority to borrow, and is not guaranteed.
- * The bold print says we'll tackle the border's wastewater treatment, water pollution and municipal solid waste problems. But again the fine print says we'll ignore air pollution and toxic waste dumps. Also, we will forgo improving environmental protection programs in these areas.

As you may have already discovered, NAFTA threatens environmental laws and the pollution is in the details of the agreement. We strongly urge you to oppose this NAFTA agreement.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Williams, Director of the International Program, or Dan Seligman, Trade Analyst, at (202) 547-1141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Pope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "P".

Carl Pope
Executive Director