

Trump's NAFTA draft re-write changes little

The AFL-CIO says President Donald Trump's draft changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) leaves standing the worst and most oppressive parts of the pact, and gives new life to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"President Trump said that NAFTA was the 'worst trade deal' and committed to rewriting the rules so that they work for workers and not the super-wealthy. The draft circulated by his administration does none of that," national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in a statement.

Trump got into the White House, in large part, on the promise to end trade agreements that put corporate profits ahead of working people and healthy communities, Citizens Trade Campaign said in a press release. The TPP died shortly after Trump took office.

"If the president wants to keep his promises, he needs to bring that same tough stance he had on the campaign trail to renegotiating America's trade deals," Trumka added.

According to the AFL-CIO, Trump's draft plan leaves in place the right of foreign investors to sue the U.S. in private tribunals in order to skirt health, safety and environmental laws. The draft plan is either silent or vague on other important issues, including rules of origin for automobiles, labor and environmental standards, currency misalignment and procurement.

"The administration is not even proposing to eliminate the NAFTA chapter that threatens 'Buy American' and 'Buy Local' government procurement preferences," said Citizens Trade Campaign. "Trump's draft is poised to let big corporations dictate how NAFTA is rewritten."

Shortly after the draft was made public the conservative, pro-TPP Cato Institute expressed relief, saying, "In a sense, this NAFTA renegotiation is an attempt to make NAFTA more like the TPP."

On March 31, Trump signed an executive order directing the Commerce Department to review the reasons for U.S. trade deficits and all violations of trade rules that harm U.S. workers across every trading partner.

The AFL-CIO called the trade deficit study "long overdue."



WHAT IS A UNION?

IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY

UNIONS ARE WORKERS WHO STAND TOGETHER to bargain with their bosses for better pay, safer working conditions and decent benefits. When workers stand together, we have power. And that power makes the American Dream more possible for everyone.

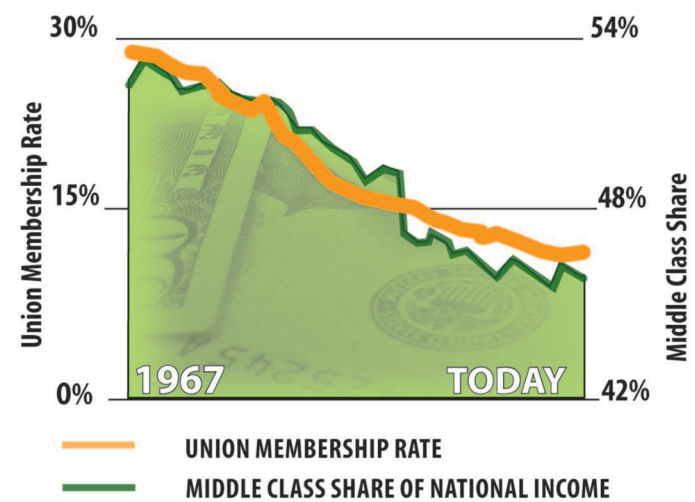
WHO NEEDS UNIONS?

WE ALL DO. Corporate CEOs have gotten rich by negotiating multi-million dollar pay packages for themselves while not allowing workers to negotiate a living wage for our families. Unions even the playing field for all workers by standing up to big corporations and fighting for laws that protect everyone.

WHAT HAVE UNIONS DONE FOR ME?

WORKING PEOPLE STOOD TOGETHER in their unions to create the 40-hour work week, paid vacations and good American wages. Today, unions are still the only counterbalance to corporate power.

AS UNION MEMBERSHIP DECREASES, MIDDLE CLASS INCOME SHRINKS



UNIONS RAISE STANDARDS FOR ALL WORKERS

- FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- PREGNANCY & PARENTAL LEAVE
- ALL BREAKS AT WORK (INCLUDING LUNCH BREAKS)
- WEEKENDS & PAID VACATION
- SICK LEAVE
- MINIMUM WAGE
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- OVERTIME & HOLIDAY PAY
- CHILD LABOR LAWS
- PRIVACY RIGHTS
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- HOMEOWNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS
- 40-HOUR WORK WEEK
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ACT (OSHA)
- 8-HOUR WORK DAY
- MILITARY LEAVE
- PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
- WRONGFUL TERMINATION LAWS
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWS
- AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
- EMPLOYER DENTAL, LIFE, & VISION INSURANCE
- EQUAL PAY ACTS OF 1963 & 2011
- AND MORE!

DO WE STILL NEED UNIONS? WE NEED UNIONS MORE THAN EVER.

Big corporations and Wall Street bankers are dismantling the American Dream by outsourcing our jobs, slashing wages and eliminating retirement just to get bigger bonuses for themselves. Today, the only thing that stands in their way is working people standing together to make sure everyone has a fair shot.



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