

FDC Resolution Opposing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

Whereas, for more than a quarter century, U.S. workers have suffered under the North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a corporate dominated trade agreement, which, according to data released by the U.S. Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, has cost U.S. Workers 913,130 jobs, including 17,245 jobs in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, the newly negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), follows the blueprint of NAFTA adding certain minor improvements, but lacks an enforcement mechanism, funding for monitoring compliance with labor standards guaranteeing the right to organize, and a provision for fair wages in all three countries; and

Whereas, without funding to monitor compliance with environmental and labor rules, there is no incentive to end plant closings and to discontinue the offshoring of jobs and, therefore, the USMCA continues the race to the bottom; and

Whereas, the U.S. governmental agency, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGRP) has issued the Fourth National Climate Assessment confirming human-made climate change is happening now, but the USMCA fails to even mention climate change despite the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change giving the three countries a deadline of 12 years to reduce and eliminate fossil fuel use; and

Whereas, the USMCA eliminates the investor state dispute settlement system (ISDS), which gave corporations access to a private justice system and arbitration, but it carves out oil and other extraction corporations from this restriction; and

Whereas, under the USMCA the pharmaceutical industry has been handed a windfall of an increased monopoly period for new biologic drugs that will lock-in the high cost of medicines for an additional period;

Therefore, be it Resolved that the Framingham Democratic Committee commends Congresswoman Katherine Clark and the Progressive Caucus of the US Congress for opposing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement as it has been negotiated, and

Be it further Resolved that the Framingham Democratic Committee opposes any trade agreement that fails to:

1. Strengthen labor rules, with explicit reference to International Labor Organization language clarifying fundamental Labor Obligations;
2. Strengthen environmental rules and provide enforcement mechanisms;
3. Eliminate rules that allow foreign investors to continue use private justice system (ISDS) to challenge non-discriminatory public interest laws and regulations;
4. Remove rules that undermine strong public interest regulations and chemical safety;
5. Assures that food labeling (including country of origin labeling) that lets families know where and how their food is produced is not a trade violation; or
6. Create new tools to address outsourcing and strengthen rules (including rules of origin) for all manufacturing sectors.

Be it further resolved that the Framingham Democratic Committee directs its Chair to forward a copy hereof to the Congressional Delegation representing the 5th Massachusetts District, the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and the Democratic National Committee.

ADOPTED, this 28th day of April, 2019, by a vote of 32 in favor, 0 and 2 abstaining.

Framingham Democratic Committee

By: Beverly K. Hugo
Beverly K Hugo, Chairwoman