

Five Reasons

To Oppose the Free Trade Area of the Americas

By Starhawk

1. **Earth:** The FTAA would allow corporations to sue governments in corporate courts for loss of potential profits if governments attempt to ban genetically engineered crops, regulate unsafe foods, ban pesticides or chemicals, protect natural resources, regulate logging, or enforce safety standards. Small farmers and indigenous communities would be further undermined by the influx of cheap foods produced by agribusiness far away.
2. **Air:** Corporations have already sued governments for banning unsafe additives from gasoline. As the hole in the ozone layer grows, governments would lose the ability to effectively regulate ozone destroying chemicals, or to prod corporations to adopt and produce the already-existing technologies that would replace gasoline with renewable, clean alternatives.
3. **Fire:** The U.N. now estimates global warming is progressing much faster than anticipated, that the earth's temperature may rise by ten degrees. The FTAA would undermine efforts to control greenhouse emissions or shift to alternative technologies. It would also open the door to privatization of utilities and energy production and distribution, taking control away from communities and government.
4. **Water:** The FTAA would allow corporations to control the water resources and hydroelectric resources of the hemisphere. It would undercut attempts to protect water quality and fair water usage, and to preserve endangered species such as salmon. It would open the door to the privatization of water delivery services.
5. **Community:** The FTAA would encourage privatization of schools, universities, medical care, hospitals, libraries, museums, prisons, transportation, broadcasting, and many other services previously provided or regulated by communities and governments.

What to do:

Write or call your Senators and congressional representatives. Tell them "No fast track for Bush!" Fast Track would give him expanded negotiating authority with minimal congressional input.

Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121)

Major demonstrations are being organized in the U.S. and Canada to protest the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City April 20-22, when 34 heads of state will meet to affirm the FTAA process. Get involved! Check www.indymedia.org for news of events in your own and other areas. (NOTE: this will open in a new browser window!)

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