FLORIDA #8

RESOLUTION

Supporting the Efforts of Fair Trade Advocates to Defeat the Passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement

WHEREAS, the year 2005 marks the 11th anniversary of the enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFT. and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has caused the loss of more than 800,000 manufacturing jobs, and net job losses in every U.S. state and District of Columbia including over 30,000 manufacturing and tech jobs in Florida, and has caused more than 1000 small and family farms to shut down in Florida; and

WHEREAS, NAFTA has proven record of negative impacts that disproportionately impact working Mexicans and Latinos liv in the United States:

- Although Latino represent 13 percent of the entire US population, they were a disproportionate 37 percent of all workers who have applied for assistance under the NAFTA Trade Adjustment Assistance program, the program designed to provide unemployment benefits and training for workers whose jobs are relocated to Mexico or Canada; and
- Both sides of the border suffer from NAFTA'S negative impact on environmental laws and protections-a disproportionate number U.S./Mexico border residents suffer from environmental health problems related to air pollution, inadequate water and sewage treatment, pesticides and hazardous wastes; and
- Wages for manufacturing in Mexico fell 20.7% between 1993 and 1999 it now takes 5 Mexican minimum wages to support basic needs for a family of four; and
- In the last 10 years more than 1.3 million Mexican farmers have lost their livelihoods and migrated north to the cities and to the bor looking for jobs in the maquiladoras; and
- 30 percent of the jobs that were created in maquiladoras in the 1990's have since relocated to even cheaper markets in Asia and Central America; and
- Real wages in Mexico are lower now than when NAFTA took effect; and
- Undocumented migration to the U.S. from Mexico has more than doubled since NAFTA was enacted; and
- Increased U.S. border policing and militarization since NAFTA has lead to more than 2,700 deaths from failed border crossings in desperate attempts to seek the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is negotiating trade agreements that could have greater potential impa on state and local governments than does NAFTA, including the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), whic could come before Congress as soon as May 2005; and

WHEREAS, the passage of CAFTA would further encourage the relocation of manufacturing jobs to cheaper labor marke pitting U.S. Latinos and Mexicans against citizens of the global south in a race to the bottom; and

WHEREAS, CAFTA fails to include adequate enforcement for violations of internationally recognized labor and environmental standards; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch, the International Labor Organization and the U.S. State Department have each publish reports denouncing human and labor rights abuses in the Central American countries party to the CAFTA agreement; and

WHEREAS, CAFTA includes foreign investor rights modeled after NAFTA as well as trade rules that could challenge sta and local authority in such areas as water services, electricity, health facilities, health insurance and zoning; and

WHEREAS, CAFTA allows foreign corporations to bring actions against governments that pass labor, public health or environmental laws that reduce corporate profits, as corporations are allowed to do under NAFTA Ch.11;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LULAC call upon our state-level organizations and local chapters to educate members about the negative impacts of NAFTA and the threat CAFTA poses to workers, health and prosperity and that LULAC supports the efforts of fair trade advocates to defeat passage of CAFTA; and be it finally resolved that LULAC urges members of congress to reject CAFTA and work for fair trade agreements that raise the standards of living for labor a protects our environmental standards.

Florida State
Florida LULAC Chapter

Criste dePdes
President _Council 7006_
Florida State Director

_6/30/05_
Date

passed by State Convention
May 14" 2000