



VIA FACSIMILE

June 29, 2005

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Dear Senator:

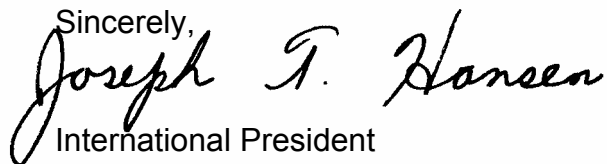
On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I am writing to urge your strong opposition to the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, or DR-CAFTA.

DR-CAFTA is a flawed agreement in many ways. It undermines domestic agriculture policy, conflicts with state and local laws regarding local content and Buy-American laws, and could impact off-shoring policy proposals. In addition, it will also weaken labor rights protections for both workers in this country as well as workers in the affected nations.

DR-CAFTA does nothing to address weak and unenforced labor laws that fail to comply with international norms relating to freedom of association and collective bargaining. It does not include protections for workers' rights to form a union or provisions for safe working conditions. Once again, in a rerun of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), American workers will be vulnerable to competition with countries that allow their workers to be abused.

A free trade agreement must be more than a vehicle for corporations. Trade should be used as a tool, not just to "open markets," but to ensure that workers and consumers benefit from trade. The nation's experiment with fast-track free trade agreements like DR-CAFTA have led to a decline in U.S. manufacturing, a record trade deficit, and a Wal-Martization of our economy that leaves workers and U.S. communities poorer.

Once again, I strongly urge your opposition to DR-CAFTA. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

International President