

A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

REJECT BAD FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPE, PUSH FOR A FAIR TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EUROPE

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

Whereas the government is currently negotiating a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), with the European Union behind closed doors and without meaningful public consultation;

Whereas this proposed trade agreement goes far beyond the scope of NAFTA and other previous trade agreements Canada has entered into which have given undue power and influence over trade to corporations; and compromised the sovereignty of Canada and participating countries;

Whereas economist Jim Stanford and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives have released a report demonstrating that the official joint study predicting benefits from free trade with Europe is based on outdated information and questionable economic modeling, and that the actual result of CETA could be a decrease in Canada's GDP and the loss of up to 150,000 jobs;

Whereas a recent draft of the Canada-EU agreement reveals that CETA would threaten the ability of all levels of government to use procurement as a policy tool in critical areas such as local job creation and community development, as well as our public services, hinder Canada's ability to create its own intellectual property laws and threaten Canada's agricultural industry and supply management programs;

Whereas said EU intellectual property laws would drastically increase drug prices and thus threaten the viability of provincial and territorial health care systems, and could severely limit the ability of Canadian farmers to save, reuse, exchange, and sell seed, as well as subject them to the unreasonable seizure of their property should they even be accused of breaking these laws;

Whereas the Harper government is using CETA negotiations to pressure the EU to lower their environmental standards and accept energy produced at a high cost to the environment, such as oil and fuel from the tar sands;

Therefore we call on the Government of Canada to conduct formal, open and transparent consultations with Canadians and seek prior informed consent on pursuing a trade agreement with the European Union based on fair trade, that protects the democratic rights of Canadians and European Union citizens and Canadian sovereignty; that the negotiation process include the formal participation of civil society, labour groups, as well as extensive public hearings and a parliamentary vote prior to ratification.

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Please return (postage paid) to: Alex Atamanenko, MP —BC Southern Interior
Room 525, Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 (*Aussi disponible en français*)