

1 **CALLING UPON OUR FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO OPPOSE A**  
2 **RENEGOTIATED NAFTA (OR ANY FUTURE TRADE AGREEMENT) IF**  
3 **THAT TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES INVESTOR STATE DISPUTE**  
4 **SETTLEMENT PROVISIONS.**

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6 WHEREAS the third round of renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement  
7 (NAFTA) has just concluded, and it is still unclear whether U.S. negotiators are going to  
8 demand the removal of the controversial NAFTA provision known as Investor State  
9 Dispute Settlement;

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11 WHEREAS according to the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, more than  
12 79,000 jobs in Washington State have been lost to off-shoring of imports since both NAFTA  
13 and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements went into effect in the mid '90s;

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15 WHEREAS actual job loss numbers are actually substantially higher according to the  
16 Peterson International Institute for International Economics, since only about 10% of the  
17 workers who have lost their jobs in industries that face heavy import competition, received  
18 assistance under TAA;

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20 WHEREAS at the heart of these agreements is a process known as Investor State Dispute  
21 Settlement (ISDS);

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23 WHEREAS ISDS formally prioritizes corporate rights over the rights of sovereign  
24 governments to regulate for the public interest, worker safety, and protections against  
25 climate change;

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27 WHEREAS, using ISDS, corporations only need to convince a panel of three corporate  
28 lawyers that a law designed to protect public health, job safety, or the environment, violates  
29 their special NAFTA rights;

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31 WHEREAS those corporate-friendly tribunals have the power to levy fines in the millions  
32 and billions of dollars against our governments for loss of the corporations' hypothetical  
33 future profits which we the taxpayers will have to pay;

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35 WHEREAS the threat of such actions has a chilling impact on the willingness of  
36 governments to regulate for the public interest, worker safety and climate change;

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38 WHEREAS workers can't sue for unfair job practices nor can communities who have been  
39 poisoned by these companies;

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41 WHEREAS ISDS makes it easier for big corporations to move jobs to where workers are the  
42 most exploited and environmental regulations are the weakest;

43 WHEREAS ISDS puts democratically-enacted public interest laws such as fracking  
44 moratoriums, laws regulating oil and gas pipelines, and 'buy local' programs in jeopardy  
45 both at home and abroad;

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47 WHEREAS allowing ISDS drives down labor and environmental standards at a time when  
48 we are needing those standards to fight climate change and to encourage sustainable  
49 communities; and

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51 WHEREAS Senators Cantwell and Murray and Representative Kilmer did not oppose the  
52 TPP which contains an ISDS chapter nor have they taken a position on ISDS;

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54 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call upon our federal  
55 elected officials - Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer - to  
56 **oppose** a renegotiated NAFTA (or any future trade deal) if it includes ISDS ; and

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58 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, upon adoption, be  
59 submitted to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its  
60 next meeting.

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62 Submitted to the Jefferson County Democratic Committee on October 1, 2017, by  
63 Linda Brewster, 360-379-4023

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67 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

68 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- 69 1. Website revealing job loss dealt with by Trade Adjustment Assistance government program  
70 <https://www.citizen.org/trade-adjustment-assistance-database>  
71
- 72 2. **Washington: Lost Jobs, Lagging Exports, Rising Inequality under NAFTA and other Free**  
73 **Trade Agreements** [https://www.citizen.org/system/files/case\\_documents/wa\\_2-  
75 pager.pdf](https://www.citizen.org/system/files/case_documents/wa_2-<br/>74 pager.pdf)
- 76 3. An excellent website by Public Citizen on **Globalization and Trade:**  
77 <https://www.citizen.org/our-work/globalization-and-trade>  
78
- 79 4. Part of Public Citizen’s website focused on **ISDS: Extraordinary Corporate Power in Trade**  
80 **Deals** <https://www.citizen.org/our-work/globalization-and-trade/investor-state-system>  
81
- 82 5. A Compendium of **Case Studies: Investor State Attacks on Public Interest Policies**  
83 [https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/egregious-investor-state-attacks-case-  
85 studies\\_4.pdf](https://www.citizen.org/sites/default/files/egregious-investor-state-attacks-case-<br/>84 studies_4.pdf)
- 86 6. Describes the **impact of ISDS on US Climate Policy** with particular focus on the Keystone  
87 Pipeline veto and the \$15 billion lawsuit filed by Trans-Canada under NAFTA  
88 [http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-6-november-december/feature/free-trades-trojan-  
90 horse](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-6-november-december/feature/free-trades-trojan-<br/>89 horse)  
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