

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
THE HONORABLE MARCY KAPTUR
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UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to NAFTA 2 NAFTA 2.0, otherwise known as the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement:

In November of 1993, I voted against NAFTA. What I said then came true: it displaced hundreds of thousands of workers, decimated our auto and manufacturing industries, and it laid waste to regions in communities across the United States and Mexico.

Now, 16 years later, we have a bill that will not bring back the 255,000 jobs in Ohio lost to NAFTA's outsourcing, a bill that ignores our small farmers reeling from the President's trade wars, a bill that fails to address our climate crisis, and an agreement void of keeping the Mexican government accountable to its labor provisions.

There are many reasons this agreement is another wolf in sheep's clothing:

1. Closed Congressional Process: Sadly, NAFTA 2, renamed USMCA, is being rushed through this House in the closing moments of this session of Congress without Members not on its negotiating team, afforded the opportunity to evaluate the full text. This agreement should be given full sunlight in open hearings, allowing a broad array of witnesses to comment on it. Privately negotiated trade deals in official settings should not displace public deliberation in full sunlight. Further, there is no ability for Congress to amend this document. The Congress is placed in the position of being a rubber stamp. No, thank you. An agreement of this scope should actually be negotiated as a treaty because of the significant impact it will have on people and communities. Trade should be about more than just goods and services; it should be about people, their communities, including clear adjustment provisions for continental integration. When Europe accessed Spain and Portugal into the European Union, special development funds were created in order to deal with the significant impacts of trade integration--worker training, transportation, safety forces, and utility systems, agricultural and industrial adjustment. No such provision has been made in this agreement to remediate the serious externalities that attend to joining first world economies with third tier economies in nations where the rule of law is weak and often unenforced. For example, one of the most tragic results of NAFTA 1 was the wiping out of the white corn market in Mexico as millions of Mexican peasant small holders were upended from their land (the ejido system). Their exodus has formed the unending stream of human misery that underlies much of the undocumented immigration that has engendered continental tremors as desperate, landless people seek refuge from a bitter harvest. Moreover, in many locations in Mexico, like Jalisco, the replacement crop for landless people became heroin. I believe this ongoing tragedy fueled by NAFTA 1 is a major reason for the illicit drug trafficking our continent is experiencing. People matter. Communities matter. Trade can eviscerate people. There must be provisions to accommodate them and respectfully readjust.

2. Continues US Job Outsourcing: USMCA will not stem the tide of job outsourcing from our nation to Mexico. NAFTA 1 promised millions of good jobs would be created in our country. Instead, the United States has borne millions of outsourced jobs and billions of dollars of continuing trade deficit with Mexico. Ohio alone has lost a quarter of a million jobs to Mexico since NAFTA 1 was passed. This emptying will continue. Look no further than Belmond, Iowa today, where another several hundred manufacturing jobs are being relocated to penny/wage replacement jobs in Aquascalientes, Mexico. The workers from Iowa are in Mexico today retraining their replacement workers. Can you imagine how merry Christmas will be for them? Since NAFTA's original passage on a narrow margin, the US has racked up gaping trade deficits with Mexico that translates into continuing US job loss. To look at some of the firms outsourced, go to website:

<https://www.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/lou.dobbs.tonight/popups/exporting.america/frameset.exclude.html>.

3. Lack of Enforcement by Mexican Government: Sadly, I do not believe that the provisions of this accord will be enforced by the government of Mexico. For over 10 years, I have been trying to get the government of Mexico to prosecute the brutal murderers in Monterrey, Mexico of 27-year-old farm laborer Santiago Cruz, a Mexican national. Santiago was fighting against the huge continental labor trafficking of his countrymen. He was educating his fellow farm workers so that they did not have to pay extortionist coyote labor traffickers \$8000 a person to come to the United States to work in our fields as they become indentured workers. Despite my decades long effort to bring his killers to justice — most recently asking the current Mexican ambassador to the United States to intervene—Mexico behaves as if this crime never occurred. The Ambassador did not even afford me the courtesy of a return letter. Mexico still fails to enforce its own laws. My repeated attempts to bring his killers to justice have been spurned by the Mexican government. We need a bill that honors Santiago and ends the worker exploitation spurred by NAFTA. Why should I believe they will enforce the provisions of USMCA?

Further, a month ago, I watched the President of Mexico unable to restore civil order in his own country as drug lords commanded a shootout in Mexico City to force the release from prison of the son of drug kingpin El Chapo. The drug lords won as the President of Mexico released El Chapo's son. How can we believe that this agreement will be enforced when labor and drug trafficking through Mexico is one of this continent's most ugly and vicious underbellies?

USMCA will not fulfill its false promises. I will not vote for a trade deal that fails to put workers first. I will vote against USMCA as I voted against NAFTA.