

May 11, 06 16:25

fair_trade

Page 1/1

FAIR TRADE

intro

We are depleting our natural resources of all kinds, wood, water, fish, and most important of all, energy.

There will not be a never ending supply of fuel for our cars. There will not be a never ending supply of fossil fertilizer for our agricultural system, let alone the trucks and planes that bring our food to Maine from Southern California or South America. That way of life is coming to an end with the end of cheap fossil energy.

Our survival is going to depend on our relocating our economy and converting to a low-energy, low-resource, no-growth economy. An economy that shrinks in terms of resources and energy used.

Our communities and our next generations will depend on the control and availability of local resources. We're going to have to figure out how to build a rural public transportation system. We're going to need our own local energy sources. We will need our own clean water. Soon.

Our communities and our next generations will depend on our developing local solutions - whether in agriculture, health care, education or government services.

I object to this Free Trade process that is taking away our democratic control over our own local economies and our lives. If someone builds a dam in Maine, we lose the river, the eels and the fish but the free traders tell us we must still sell the power. If we build a biodiesel plant, we lose the trees and must sell the fuel. We get environmental degradation; someone else gets the profit.

We must take back local democratic control of our economy or we will end up with neither food nor fuel. We must not surrender power over our local ordinances, laws and regulations to the foreign and alien corporations. They have too much already.

As a citizen of Maine, I object to this whole Free Trade process. I'd like to ask the Commission to investigate ways of carving the State of Maine completely out of it. Maine can't wait.

Chris Miller
<http://www.mainecommonwealth.com/>

657 4963