

STEVE BURKE

Intro - Steve, Sirius Graphics - Warren, screen printed sportswear shop. ^{since 76}
Thank you ~~for the good work~~ and for providing the public an opportunity to testify on matters of local, state and global significance.

I'm not against a greater globalization of the world econ.....if done right it could be benifical, not just to business but to people and the environment also.

The example of NAFTA and the specter of CAFTA in my estimation do not constitute trade agreements that are carried out in the best interests of all.

The economic philosophy that whatever is a boon for business will create a stronger economy, more jobs and goodies for everyone has been with us for a long time.
whats good for Ford is good for the USA
Regans trickle down economics
now these trade agreements

for the most part the only people who benefit from these schemes are corporate ceo's if you go into the streets and talk to people about NAFTA...you'll find out that to a huge extent they UNDERSTAND it, at least in relationship to their own situation, and oppose ~~NAFTA~~ ^{they wouldnt mind}

In my own biz...I've watched the apparel mills in the new England and the south shut down 1 by 1.....10's of thousands of jobs.....exported to low wage platformsmak lee la doras in Mex, sweat shops in Guatemala.

in these places the basic t shirts that I print on are assembled at a mere fraction of the cost....you can make a lot of money if you set up a plant in a place where thugs and the military are routinely used to bust up unions and workers organizations and your workers, many who live in cardboard shacks, are paid 40 to 60 cents an hour.

so ...the basic tshirt I print on is getting produced for a heck of a lot cheaper.....but it hasn't gotten cheaper for me to buy the things and it hasn't gotten cheaper for you to buy them from me.

^{AND THE PROFITS SOAR}
I follow the markets from time to time and I've watched the price earning ratios of these mills plummet after a relocation...they're saving a lot of money and making a lot of money and little is being passed on to the consumer

the price for product is pretty much artificial. when I buy this stuff, I buy from whoever has what I want....I don't spend a lot of time combing thru catalogues for the best price because there isn't a best price...a few cents difference here and there...kind of like gas at the pumps...artificially high, a few cents diff to make it look like competition, but basically the oil people are all in bed with one another...like wise the mills, and a lot of other corporations...I suspect.

In my business...prices are set just low enough to make it really rough on the few

struggling mills that have chosen to remain in the US. I encourage customers to buy domestic but you have to be some kind of a patriot to pay 30, 40 50 cents more per unit. and since many of my customers are small business people who are engaged in real compititon patronizing us made products is difficult for them to do.

DECREASED

*THEY'RE
EARNED
SO MUCH
MONEY*

By their very nature the loyalty of corporations is to one thing only...their bottom line ...pin down a ceo on outsouceing, layoffs and plant closures and they'll all tell you the same thing...."well gee, this isn't something....~~compassion~~... to some extent that may be true....

COMPITITION

In a nutshell, national and multi national corporations have zero consideration for human rights, the right of workers to organize or the environment. This is insitiutinal and in spite of all the green lip service they provide....it's not gonna change.

Trade agreements are serious business, I understand that by nature they are treaties and that by law they carry an incredible authority to override existing laws and institutions.

these agreements cannot go forward with the sole purpose of enabling those in positions of power and privilege to corner and accumulate a greater share of the planet's wealth.

These agreements can not go forward with out a full and open public discussion in all of the signatory countries.

These agreements can not go forward unless they are reprioritized. Paramount must be human rights considerations, workers rights to organize, and protection of the environment.

HAS FAILED

*ADD NEEDS TO BE
SCRUTINIZED*

NAFTA ~~needs to be totally restructured~~ to address these things. and CAFTA in its present form is totally unacceptable.

The need to closely monotor trade agreements as they evolve should be evident to all...to that end I am very greatful for the creation and work of this commission

Thank You!