

(H) FRICT 3/14/05 RESOLUTION NO 2004-05  
INTRODUCED BY DENA HOFF  
BY REQUEST OF DAWSON RESOURCE COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE COUNCIL OPPOSING  
TRADE AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT OR  
OTHER TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT THREATEN THE SOVEREIGNTY OR PUBLIC HEALTH,  
SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITIES, STATES, AND NATIONS.

WHEREAS, trade policy over the last 10 years has failed with the loss of thousands of  
manufacturing and high tech jobs, a decline in farm income, and a record trade deficit; and,

WHEREAS, trade agreements give away our sovereignty and our ability to make local decisions  
to protect human health, safety, workers, clean air, and clean water; and,

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free  
Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and many other trade agreements include "investment" provisions that allow  
foreign corporations to legally challenge state and local authority for zoning; land, water, and other natural  
resource protections; public safety and health; and stifle efforts to promote economic development and  
encourage local procurement; and,

WHEREAS, the discriminatory nature of many of these "investor rights" provisions indicate that  
the prime beneficiaries are the transnational investors, not the uninvested citizens of any participating  
country or political subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, American trade policy should strengthen, not weaken, the public health,  
environment, food sovereignty, working conditions, labor rights, and transparent competitive market  
principles of this country and all countries; and,

WHEREAS, trade policy must respect the right and ability of any nation and its political  
subdivisions to maintain and operate policies and programs that protect the interests of public health,  
safety, welfare, and service; and,

WHEREAS, the "service rules" in trade agreements could force local, state, and national  
governments to privatize public services like water, utilities, education, social services, and corrections,  
leading to lack of local control and accountability; and

WHEREAS, current trade agreements do not have enforceable standards for labor and  
environmental protections, escalating a race to the bottom in which countries compete for foreign  
investment by offering the lowest cost production,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN PLAINS RESOURCE  
COUNCIL, IN ANNUAL MEETING ASSEMBLED:



37 (1) That Northern Plains Resource Council opposes the approval of any U.S. trade agreement  
38 that prohibits the protection of the public safety and welfare of our communities, states, and nations; and,

39 (2) That Northern Plains Resource Council asks the U.S. government to secure informed and  
40 explicit consent from state and local officials prior to negotiating any trade agreement in order to ensure  
41 that trade negotiators do not undermine the scope of local, constitutional government authority while  
42 assessing the impact of any proposed agreement on state and local economies and laws and future law-  
43 making authority and, when necessary, providing general exceptions to safeguard local sovereignty and  
44 protect effective local economic programs and initiatives.

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