

# John McCain's Industrial Record

*John McCain's record as a self-proclaimed "free trader" shows his complete disregard for the difficulties that the manufacturing industry is facing because of trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA. He also has opposed efforts to help protect workers in these industries from facing unnecessary lay-offs.*

## MCCAIN UNDERCUT U.S. MANUFACTURING

**McCain Voted Against Limiting Tax Breaks To Companies That Re-Import Foreign Manufactured Goods.** Voted against a bill to tax multinational companies on income from foreign factories when goods are shipped back to the U.S. and to require companies to notify employees and give a reason before they move their jobs overseas. [S.1637, Vote #83, 5/5/04]

**McCain Supported Waiving and Weakening Buy American Laws.** McCain voted to allow Secretary of Defense to waive Buy American laws for defense systems and place our defense manufacturing industry in jeopardy. He also voted to exempt defense goods from six European countries from Buy American requirements that traditionally have required most military equipment and defense systems to be manufactured in the U.S. [S.2400, Vote #135, 6/22/04; S.1050, Vote #191, 5/21/03]

**McCain Abstained From Voting To Protect Steel Jobs.** McCain abstained from a vote to filibuster a bill to protect steelworker jobs from illegal dumping after 10,000 steelworkers lost their jobs. [H.R. 975, Vote #178, 6/22/99]

## AND WANTS TO EXPAND BAD TRADE AGREEMENTS

**McCain Voted For The Most Devastating Trade Agreement In Our History, NAFTA.** McCain voted for NAFTA in 1993 and has been a steadfast supporter for the trade agreement ever since. [HR 3450, Vote #395, 11/20/93]

- **McCain in Iowa:** "I know NAFTA was a good idea...." McCain said to the *Des Moines Register* leading up to the Iowa caucuses: "I know NAFTA was a good idea. It has created millions of jobs and it has helped the economies of all three of these nations. All you have to do is go to Detroit and see the trucks lined up every day or go to our southern border. There have been winners and losers. And that's the problem. But free trade is something that I think is vital to America..." [*Des Moines Register* and [www.BigThink.com](http://www.BigThink.com) interview, November 2007]

McCain discussing his support for NAFTA and his desire to expand free trade:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86OwI-6TWic&feature=related>

- **NAFTA Resulted In A Loss of Over A Million Jobs.** From 1993 through 2004, the United States lost 1,015,290 jobs due to NAFTA. [Robert E. Scott and David Rainer, "NAFTA'S Cautionary Tale - Recent history suggests CAFTA could lead to further U.S. job displacement," Economic Policy Institute, 7/20/2005]

AFL-CIO Political Research Document.

\*\* This research is an ongoing process, we will continue to update it throughout the cycle.\*\*

For more information or to share information with us, contact Sr. Writer/Researcher Hana Veselka ([hveselka@aficio.org](mailto:hveselka@aficio.org), 202-637-5211) or Presidential Researcher Brandon Gillard ([bgillard@aficio.org](mailto:bgillard@aficio.org), 202-637-5162).

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**McCain Voted for Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).** Senator John McCain voted for the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). CAFTA cuts tariffs among the United States, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. But the agreement, modeled after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), does not contain adequate environmental protections or enforceable protections for such core workers' rights as the freedom to form unions. At the same time, its excessive protections for multinational corporations will undermine the ability of governments to protect public health, strong communities and the environment. The bill passed June 30, 2005, 54-45. (R: 43-12; D: 10-33; I: 1-0) AFL-CIO Position: Y=W; N=R [S 1307, Vote# 170, 6/30/05]

**McCain Supported Normalizing Trade Relations With China.** Vote for normalizing trade relations with China, allowing China to enter the World Trade Organization despite an ongoing history of human rights and workers' rights violations. [H.R. 4444, Vote #251, 9/19/00]

- **101,480 Chinese Died In Work Accidents Last Year.** In 2007, 101,480 Chinese died in accidents. In the world's deadliest coal mines, 3,786 miners were killed a figure is believed by experts to understate casualties as mine owners and officials hide accidents to avoid costly investigations and penalties. [Associated Press, 1/22/08]
- **Grocery Chain Stops Carrying Chinese Foods After Regulators Warn Of Contamination.** "Trader Joe's grocery stores are dropping foods from China to satisfy customers concerned about the quality of that country's products after last year's spate of problems.... Federal regulators last year warned about contaminated Chinese pet-food ingredients, fish containing antibiotics not allowed in human food, and toothpaste laced with a chemical used in antifreeze." [USA Today, 2/11/08]

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