

Dear President Obama:

_____ *date*

El Salvador is currently facing two investor-state lawsuits filed under the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) in response to its decision to deny permits to U.S. gold mining companies. It should be the right and responsibility of every government to protect its citizens and the environment from catastrophic pollution, including that caused by foreign investors. Instead, CAFTA and other free trade agreements allow these corporations to demand hundreds of millions of dollars in “compensation” from poor countries like El Salvador when their environmental regulations threaten profits.

These extraordinary investor “rights” are among the reasons you voted against CAFTA as a senator. On the campaign trail in 2008, you said “I will ensure that this right [of foreign investors to sue governments] is strictly limited and will fully exempt any law or regulation written to protect public safety or promote the public interest.” You were right then, and we need you to take action now as president!

I call on you to renegotiate CAFTA and other free trade agreements in order to eliminate the investment provisions you spoke out against as a candidate.

_____ *name*

_____ *address* *city, state, zip*

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President Barack Obama
The White House
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Washington, D.C. 20500

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