



Putting America Back to Work IN America

Our country is facing twin crises: high unemployment and a decrepit infrastructure. At the same time, millions of manufacturing and high-tech jobs are being shipped overseas. Dennis Kucinich will turn our problems around and put Americans back to work in America.

By pulling out of NAFTA, we can return jobs that have been lost, including high-wage jobs in the information technology field. By initiating a WPA-style jobs program that puts Americans back to work rebuilding America, we can create millions of jobs and simultaneously improve our quality of life.

As a nation, we face a predicament of either buy American, or bye-bye America. Unless we cancel the WTO and pull out of NAFTA, corporations will continue to move jobs out of the country and produce goods in developing and third-world nations (with great costs to those countries' workers and environment). In order to buy American, we have to assure that goods are still being produced in America. That's why we must first cancel the WTO and pull out of NAFTA, which have lost us millions of jobs and spurred a soaring trade deficit.

Ironically, at the same time so many Americans can't find work there is so much work to do. The crisis of our decaying infrastructure is seen in our crumbling highways and leaking schools and hospitals. Sewer systems overflow. Bridges collapse. Steam pipes burst. These events occur with increasing regularity as systems age. Infrastructure problems threaten our productivity, our economy, our environment, our health, and our lives.

The Kucinich Plan to Rebuild American Infrastructure

The Kucinich plan calls for the creation of a low-cost federal financing mechanism to administer \$50 billion in zero-interest loans every year to localities for infrastructure projects for ten years, funded by a 15 percent reduction in the Pentagon budget. Twenty percent of these funds would be targeted for school construction and repair.

State and local governments would continue to issue bonds to finance infrastructure projects, using zero-interest loans from the federal government. The cost of borrowing for infrastructure improvement would be reduced by half.

The Kucinich Plan to Keep Jobs in America

The exodus of jobs from our shores and the "race to the bottom" for workers around the world is an obvious result of NAFTA and the WTO, both of which make it impossible to place taxes or tariffs on outsourced work. The search for countries where workers are unrepresented and environmental rules are lax must end. Dennis Kucinich's first act in office will be to cancel NAFTA and WTO, and work to replace them with Fair Trade policies in which bilateral trade agreements are negotiated to provide for worker rights, human rights and environmental safeguards.

The current administration, with the help of some in Congress, has embraced the concept of outsourcing American jobs overseas as a new form of international trade. Where is the patriotism in this? U.S. companies are expected to continue to ship hundreds of thousands of jobs a year overseas in the near future, in pursuit of lower wages, and we have already lost a significant fraction of our manufacturing jobs to countries overseas. In this continued loss of control over the development of our own technology and materials, and the continued loss of hundreds of thousands of American jobs, we are creating serious threats to our national and economic security.

We cannot continue to tolerate the loopholes and offshore profit shifting that corporations engage in to get out of paying their fair share of taxes. We must also take a much harder line on corporate crime, by increasing the roles of the FTC, the SEC, and the Justice Department in addressing it.

We live in strange times when patriotism merely extends to unnecessary wars and not to protecting the lives and welfare of American families by keeping jobs here. It is necessary to promote a new corporate responsibility and sense of shared commitment, so that the race to minimize wages for workers and maximize shareholder profits in already profitable businesses is considered unpatriotic and punishable by tax policy. We must reject the current trend of transferring more and more wealth upward, by creating an intelligent tax structure that promotes the public good.

The Kucinich campaign's entire mission is aimed at increasing benefits for the public good. The campaign is financed by ordinary individuals — working-class citizens — not corporate executives and hedge-fund operators. Dennis Kucinich is not beholden to insurance companies, drug companies, Wall Street brokers or other any corporate interests; he has no strings attached. The beliefs and actions of Dennis Kucinich — and his life in public service — have always been in the interests of all the people of our nation, not just the wealthy elite.