

Citizen declaration on TILMA

TO: _____,

Member of the Legislative Assembly for _____.

We, concerned citizens of this riding declare our opposition to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement signed by the governments of British Columbia and Alberta in April, 2006.

TILMA offends democratic principles:

- TILMA was signed behind closed doors, with no public consultation or debate in the Legislature.
- TILMA completely subordinates the public good to that of private, commercial interests.
- TILMA effectively hands over to un-elected dispute panels the authority to overrule democratically-made decisions.
- TILMA gives corporations the right to be compensated for up to \$5 million for government policies that cost them money, even when these policies serve the public interest.
- TILMA imposes extreme limitations on what governments can do to solve urgent problems, such as global warming.
- TILMA threatens the ability of local governments to maintain planning and other regulations necessary for the well-being of their communities.
- TILMA prevents governments from providing targeted grants and loans to foster local economic development and severely restricts efforts to support local businesses through government purchasing decisions.
- TILMA creates grave new threats to the public nature of our health care, education and other services by allowing commercial challenges to these services.

We call on the BC government to withdraw from TILMA.