

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT,

Whereas the *Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement* (FIPA) was announced in February and signed by the Prime Minister in Vladivostok on September 9th, 2012, but kept from the Canadian public and Parliament until September 26th, 2012;

Whereas as early as November 1st, the Harper Conservatives enact this agreement into force without *any* public consultation or Parliamentary debate and, once ratified, Canada will be bound by the Agreement for 15 years. Should any future government wish to withdraw from these onerous commitments, one year written notice is required, and any existing Chinese investors in Canada would be protected for an additional 15 years;

Whereas FIPA agreements are essentially corporate rights pacts, that provide foreign corporations access to secret arbitration hearings with the power to challenge and overturn democratically passed Canadian laws or regulations that infringe on their “expected” profits;

Whereas similar provisions in NAFTA Chapter 11 have resulted in the Canadian government being forced to pay out millions in settlements to US corporations, the Canada-China FIPA will provide Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs), essentially arms of the Chinese government, with the ability to claim damages and complain to the Federal government of laws or regulations made at any level of government that reduce their expectation of profits (“tantamount to expropriation”);

Whereas such agreements, and the secretive way they are negotiated and ratified, are deeply corrosive to Canadian democracy, and this Government is keeping Canadians in the dark on an agreement that could impact Canadians for generations;

And whereas Australia, having recognized that such corporate rights pacts are inherently destructive and anti-democratic, has decided that it will never again sign such an agreement;

THEREFORE,

Your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to,

Decline to ratify the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, take immediate steps to limit the influence of state-owned enterprises over our democracy, in the interest of ensuring that the power over Canadian laws remains in Canadian hands.

Signature

Full Address with City and Province

Email (optional)

Please complete and send, postage free, to;
Elizabeth May O.C., M.P., Room 518 Confederation Building, House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Guidelines

1. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.
2. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.
3. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.
4. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.
5. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.
6. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.

518 Confederation Building

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Please email elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca or call 613-996-1119 if you have any questions.