

MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

To all the organizers and participants of the **Day of Action Against Canadian Resource Extraction**, I wish to express my solidarity to all of you on this day.

At the Global Economy Project of IPS we work in solidarity with communities across the hemisphere who suffer from destructive mining projects. We do research and educate the public and decision makers - and mobilize - on how under free trade agreements like NAFTA and CAFTA, and bilateral investment treaties (BITs), foreign investors have the right to file "investor-State" lawsuits in international tribunals to demand compensation for government actions that reduce their profits. There are several such suits from extractive industries' companies against governments, like that of the Canadian Pacific Rim company against the small country of El Salvador. These suits cost millions of dollars to governments of poor countries that should be used for education, health, prevention of natural disasters, etc. Instead, our governments and people have to defend themselves against ruthless companies that seek extracting our own resources from our own lands, without anything in return. Worse still, our countries are often suffering the chilling effects of these investors' rights, when they think of planning and implementing responsible public and environmental policies. We must redress these rules and the Day of Action Against Canadian Resource Extraction is a great occasion of joining hands in that direction.

We wish you the best of mobilizations possible in all the corners of the hemisphere where people will come out to defend our lands, resources, and the future of our coming generations from greedy and destructive mining.

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