



NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Walter B. Jones

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CONTACT: Kathleen Joyce

202-225-3415

JONES VOICES CONCERN OVER “PARTNERSHIP” WITH CANADA AND MEXICO, OPPOSES NORTH AMERICAN UNION

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Walter B. Jones (R-NC) today expressed concern over the implications of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) on border security, American jobs and our nation’s sovereignty as **President Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe Calderon convene** this week’s North American Leaders’ Summit in Montebello, Canada.

“My Eastern North Carolina constituents are troubled by our weakly defended borders, our exploding trade deficit and the erosion of our national sovereignty,” Congressman Jones said. “As a result, many of them have expressed their concerns about our nation’s leadership role in the SPP.”

The SPP is a trilateral partnership between the U.S., Mexico and Canada established in March 2005. According to a White House document posted on the SPP’s website (www.spp.gov), the Bush administration and that of former Mexican President Vicente Fox and Canadian Prime Minister Harper formed the SPP to, among other things, “facilitate further the movement of ... persons within North America” and to “maximize trade ... across our borders by striving to ensure compatibility of regulations and standards and eliminating redundant testing and certification requirements.” The document also announces that a series of trilateral working groups are convening to harmonize many of America’s regulations with those of Mexico and Canada.

“My constituents and I are extremely concerned about this ‘partnership’ for many reasons,” Jones continued. “Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution explicitly states that Congress – not the executive branch – has the power to ‘regulate commerce with foreign nations.’ Also, many SPP working group meetings are held in secret, and the public, the press and members of Congress have no opportunity to participate or conduct oversight.”

“Since NAFTA was approved, the United States has lost 3.1 million manufacturing jobs. More than 10 thousand illegal aliens now stream across our southern border every week. The U.S. does not need its government equalizing standards and regulations that will result in more American jobs going to Mexico and more illegal aliens coming to America,” Jones said. “The SPP also appears to cast aside America’s sovereignty and takes another step towards combining the United States, Mexico and Canada into a single EU-style North American super state.”

“While the American people and Congress understand the importance of promoting good relations with our neighbors, these concerns will only intensify if pursuit of the SPP continues out of public view and without congressional oversight or approval,” Jones concluded.

Congressman Jones is an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 40, a resolution which states that the United States should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway System or enter into a North American Union with Mexico and Canada.

For additional information or to schedule an interview with Congressman Walter B. Jones please contact Kathleen Joyce at (202) 225-3415.