

DEMAND MORE FROM KERRY!

We hear a lot about how we need to get President Bush out of office at all costs, and while we all want to see Bush go, we can't just vote for anyone simply because they have a different name. This year, John Kerry is asking for our votes while pledging to pursue many of the Bush administration's policies. If we are going to give Kerry our votes, it is only fair that we ask something of him in return:

End the Occupation of Iraq – Kerry voted for the invasion of Iraq, supports the ongoing occupation, and supports pre-emptive wars. Kerry needs to come out against the illegal invasion of Iraq (which has killed over 10,000 Iraqi civilians and 900 US troops while being based entirely on lies) and propose a real plan to end the occupation now.

No More "Free Trade" Agreements – Kerry voted for NAFTA and supports agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA provided they have minimal protections for American jobs. We need to tell Kerry that trade agreements must offer real protections for workers both in the United States and in non-western countries where they are frequently exploited, in addition to environmental protections. Trade agreements should be designed to benefit all people, not just corporations.

No More Corporate Influence – Kerry has a host of corporate allies: Fleet Boston Financial, Time Warner, and CitiGroup, in addition to receiving more contributions from lobbyists than any other senator in the last 15 years. As long as corporations and lobbyists have relationships with Kerry, they will have more influence than us. Kerry needs to propose a plan to remove corporate money from politics.

We are not telling you not to vote for John Kerry, rather, we believe it is time that we start demanding more from the candidates that claim to represent us. We have spent far too long voting for the lesser of two evils, it is time we ask something in return for our votes. The current momentum behind Kerry is a good start, but "Anybody but Bush" is not enough—we should be using the enormous interest in this election to develop a candidate that will actually change politics, not just preserve the status quo under a different name.

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