



### **This Video is Hilarious; the Panama FTA Isn't**

A couple weeks ago we released a hilarious video of Jessica, our star 20 year-old intern, having a chat with a shockingly honest guy at one of the many Panamanian firms specializing in setting up secret corporations and bank accounts to dodge taxes in Panama. In just a few minutes, Jessica was ready to go into business - exposing just how frighteningly loose Panama's banking and corporate charter laws are.

The video made the front page of the Huffington Post and OpenLeft, and was seen by thousands - but it was so ridiculous that many couldn't believe it was really that easy to set up an offshore corporation to dodge taxes in Panama.

[Click here to see for yourself, then write your representative to convey your disbelief that some in the administration could be pushing for a leftover Bush NAFTA expansion deal with this country.](#)



We know it's all unbelievable - not only that it's so easy to set up a secret tax-dodging corporation in Panama, but also that President Obama's top trade official, Ron Kirk, announced in May that his team

is "working rigorously" to pass Bush's leftover NAFTA deal with tax haven Panama. Kirk must have been asleep when his boss was winning the Democratic primary by pledging to *roll back* NAFTA, not expand it. And, then there is the little problem of Obama launching a major crackdown on tax havens while Kirk was pushing a special deal with one of the world's most infamous, um, tax havens.

**[Write your representative and urge him or her to oppose Bush's leftover NAFTA deal with tax haven Panama. Then, spread the word about our campaign by forwarding this email to your friends!](#)**

Setting up an offshore corporation in Panama, like Jessica called to do, costs only \$500, but the cost of the Panama FTA is enormous. With the economy in recession, and so many other progressive priorities pending - health care, labor law reforms and climate legislation - the last thing Congress should do is expand the discredited NAFTA/WTO model, which helped bring on the economic crisis in the first place.

**[So please take a peek at Jessica's video and tell your member of Congress to say "no" to Bush's NAFTA expansion to Panama.](#)**

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Thank you for all that you do,  
James Ploeser, Senior Organizer  
Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch division