

# THE BUSH RECORD ON MANUFACTURING

## Rather than working to create jobs and rebuild America's industrial base, President George W. Bush:

- Stood by as 2.7 million manufacturing jobs disappeared.
- Waives Buy American laws, supports gutting Buy American protections and opposes expanding Buy American protections for U.S. defense purchases.
- Proposes eliminating all U.S. tariffs on manufactured imports, ensuring the United States will lose leverage over unfair trade practices and workers' rights violations abroad.
- Proposes expanding the failed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) first to Central America then to the entire Western Hemisphere as part of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
- Refuses to challenge China on its illegal manipulation of currency, putting U.S. manufacturers at a disadvantage of up to 40 percent.
- Proposes pension rules that could undermine the viability of union manufacturers.
- Supports tax changes that would provide more incentives for shifting jobs and production abroad.
- Lifted tariffs on steel that had allowed the industry to regain its footing, leaving the industry in jeopardy of shifting back to more bankruptcies, layoffs and plant closures.
- Refuses to provide relief for several U.S. manufacturers hurt by the unfair practices of foreign manufacturers.
- Proposed the U.S.–Thailand Free Trade Agreement, which could undermine the U.S. pickup-truck industry.
- Pushed through a Medicare bill with minimal benefits and strong incentives for employers to drop retirees from health care coverage. The new Medicare law even prevents the government from negotiating for lower prescription drug costs.
- Proposed a “manufacturing czar” to coordinate the administration’s response to the crisis in manufacturing—a weak response to a serious problem.

