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Voice of the People

Globalization is a choice

In its support of Mike DeWine over Sherrod Brown for US Senate (Our Opinion, Oct 15), the Beacon Journal reserved the bulk of its criticism of Brown for his opposition to NAFTA and other free trade agreements. "The genie of globalization is out of the bottle. The past is irretrievable."

From this summation, one would think corporate globalization is in the same category as gravity, old age and the sun rising every morning. Truth is corporate globalization is not inevitable or "irretrievable." The laws and rules governing the free flow of goods and services between and across nations have been designed and reinforced quite intentionally and strategically by human beings.

Why transnational corporations increasingly do what they want, when they want and where they want is not cosmic. International trade laws and rules were built that way.

If globalization was inevitable, the World Trade Organization agreement and Free Trade Agreement of the Americas would already exist. The reasons they don't are because grassroots people throughout the world, along with leaders from many underdeveloped nations who see these trade deals as destructive to their societies, have resisted and are calling for more sustainable and self-governing paths.

We don't have much of a choice on gravity. That's inevitable. But we the people can decide laws and rules we think will ultimately benefit human beings, communities and the environment. That's democracy.

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