

**Over 400 Groups Urge Replacement of Outdated “Fast Track”  
and a New Direction for the Trans-Pacific Partnership  
and Other 21<sup>st</sup> Century Trade Agreements**

March 4, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

As U.S. trade negotiators seek to conclude a standard-setting new trade and investment pact for the Asia-Pacific region by this October and consider launching another with the European Union, we write on behalf of our more than 15 million combined members and supporters to share our expectations regarding commercial agreements in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the congressional oversight role needed to transform past U.S. trade policy into a tool that helps build a more just and sustainable global economy.

We find it troubling that, even as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement enters its 16<sup>th</sup> major round of negotiations this March in Singapore, U.S. negotiators still refuse to inform the American public what they have been proposing in our names. Shielding not only proposals, but agreed-upon texts from public view until after negotiations have concluded and the pact is finalized is not consistent with democratic principles. In this regard, the TPP appears to be even less transparent than some past trade negotiations. For example, in 2001, the United States joined with 33 other countries in releasing draft text of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and draft texts within the World Trade Organization are frequently made available.

Issues that must be addressed so that a TPP, a European Union-U.S. Agreement or any other U.S. trade pact actually improves the quality of life for Americans and people throughout the world include:

- ***Prioritization of human and labor rights.*** Too many existing trade policies go to great lengths to protect the rights of investors, while ignoring or glossing over issues of forced labor, child labor, sweatshop working conditions, political violence, environmental degradation, violations of indigenous peoples’ sovereignty and government suppression of such basic freedoms as speech, assembly, movement and the rights to form independent trade unions and bargain collectively. Human and labor rights must be front-and-center in any trade agreement if it is to help reverse the global race to the bottom in working conditions and environmental practices.
- ***Respect for local development goals and the procurement policies that deliver on them.*** Trade agreements should not impede governments from spending taxpayer funds in ways that prioritize local development, environmental or social goals. The procurement provisions of trade pacts must maintain existing “Buy American” preferences, as well as prevailing wage requirements, green preferences, sweat-free preferences, human rights preferences and policies designed to address long-standing inequalities.
- ***No elevation of corporations to equal terms with governments.*** Trade agreements should not grant individual corporations and investors special powers to privately enforce agreement terms by challenging laws, regulations and court decisions through tribunals that circumvent domestic judicial systems. The “investor-state” tribunal system that allows panels of three private sector lawyers to order unlimited taxpayer compensation for foreign firms who claim that a country’s laws undermine their expected future profits must be eliminated. International investment rules must also be revised to more narrowly define terms including “investment,” “expropriation” and “minimum standard of treatment” in order to safeguard the ability of governments to regulate in the public interest.

PO Box 77077 Washington, DC 20013 phone: 202-494-8826 [www.citizenstrade.org](http://www.citizenstrade.org)

---

**Citizens Trade Campaign is a coalition of labor, environmental, religious, family farm and consumer organizations united in the pursuit of social and environmental justice in trade policy**

- **Protect food sovereignty.** Trade agreements should respect governments' ability to implement programs that ensure farmers and other food workers receive fair compensation and that consumers have access to safe and affordable foods. Likewise, nations must be able to protect themselves from dumping and other unfair trade practices that force farmers off their land.
- **Access to affordable medicine.** Maintaining access to affordable, generic medications is critical to reducing health care costs in the United States and to saving lives throughout the world. Trade agreements are an inappropriate vehicle for extending the length of drug patents, and U.S. policies should explicitly uphold the standards set forth in the Doha Declaration on access to medicine.
- **Safeguards against currency manipulation.** Trade agreements should include measures that allow the United States and other governments to take measures to counteract trade-distorting currency manipulation. Agreements should also include strong rule of origin provisions to ensure that the benefits of the agreement go to those countries that agree to meet its rules.
- **Space for robust financial regulations and public services.** Trade pacts should set floors, not ceilings, when it comes to the regulation of banks, insurance companies, hedge funds and other financial service providers. Trade agreements' services provisions should contain clear and specific language stating that nothing in the agreement should be interpreted as requiring deregulation or privatization of any private or public service.
- **Improved consumer and environmental standards.** Likewise, trade agreements should set floors, rather than ceilings, when it comes to environmental, food and product safety and consumer right-to-know measures.

We believe a much greater degree of public and congressional oversight is needed if the TPP and other pacts are to achieve these high standards. Before granting the Obama administration any special trade policymaking authority, please request that it make the draft TPP texts public.

Instead of delegating Congress' exclusive constitutional authority to "regulate commerce with foreign nations" to the executive branch through the reinstatement of outdated and extreme procedures like Fast Track "Trade Promotion Authority," we urge you to support a new American trade agreement negotiation and approval process that:

- Requires that Office of the U.S. Trade Representative consult with all interested stakeholders, participate in hearings with all committees of jurisdiction over matters affected by trade agreements and provide a thorough and public assessment of what specific job creation and export expansion opportunities each prospective trade partner would provide and how a proposed agreement would impact human and labor rights, the environment, food sovereignty, access to medicine, currency manipulation and balance of trade among the countries involved — beginning this expanded engagement process with the TPP as soon as possible;
- Sets up an objective process to verify that negotiating objectives set by Congress are actually achieved in the final agreement; and
- Includes a process by which a majority of the Congress must vote to certify that a proposed agreement is in the public interest and that Congress' negotiating objectives have been met *before* the executive branch can sign the agreement and bind the United States to its terms.

Only through this type of robust oversight and public participation can we forge a new national and global consensus on trade policy that works for all.

Sincerely,

Citizens Trade Campaign  
 8th Day Center for Justice  
 ActionAid USA  
 Alliance for Democracy  
 Alliance for Global Justice

Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Federation of Government Employees  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Medical Student Association  
American Postal Workers Union  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) International Union  
BAYAN-USA  
Campaign for America's Future  
Campaign for Labor Rights and Nicaragua Network  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health (CPATH)  
Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras  
Coalitions of Mutual Endeavor  
Colombia Support Network  
Communications Workers of America  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, General Council  
Corporate Accountability International  
Cultural Survival  
Democracy for America  
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)  
Earthjustice  
Educating for Justice  
Energy Action Coalition  
Engineers and Scientists for Animal Rights  
Equal Exchange  
Fair World Project  
Family Farm Defenders  
Food & Water Watch  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)  
Friends of the Earth US  
Global Coalition of Women Against AIDS in Uganda  
Global Exchange  
Global Justice for Animals and the Environment  
Grassroots International  
Green Party of the United States  
Guatemala Human Rights Commission  
Health GAP  
Holy Cross International Justice Office  
Initiative for Medicines, Access & Knowledge (I-MAK)  
Inlandboatmens Union of the Pacific  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights  
Institute for Local Self Reliance  
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Labor Rights Forum  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC)  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

Intersect Worldwide  
It's Our Economy  
Jobs with Justice/American Rights at Work  
Just Foreign Policy  
Labor Network for Sustainability  
League of Rural Voters  
MADRE  
Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
MDM Inc.  
Medical Mission Sisters' Alliance for Justice  
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office  
Moana Nui Action Alliance  
Move To Amend  
National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC)  
National Consumers League  
National Family Farm Coalition  
National Farmers Union  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
National Legislative Association on Prescription Drug Prices  
National Nurses United  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
New Rules for Global Finance Coalition  
North American Intertribal Missions  
Pax Christi  
Peace Action  
Peaceroots Alliance  
Presbyterian Church USA  
Progressive Agriculture Organization  
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Rainforest Action Network  
Real Food Generation  
Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural  
School of the Americas Watch  
SELF  
Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee  
Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA)  
Student Global AIDS Campaign  
SweatFree Communities  
Take Back America for the People  
TenThousandMeans  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
United for Peace and Justice  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Mine Workers of America  
United Steelworkers  
United Students Against Sweatshops  
Universities Allied for Essential Medicines

US Human Rights Network  
US Labor Education in the Americas Project  
USAction  
Veterans For Peace  
Witness for Peace  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section

**Regional, State and Local Organizations**

A. Philip Randolph Institute (WA)  
AfroColombia NY  
AFT-Wisconsin  
All Souls Bethlehem Church (NY)  
Alliance for Democracy - Oregon  
Allyship (WA)  
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 (MN)  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) 3937 (WA)  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Council 220 (MD)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3336 (OR)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 5 (MN)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 3214 (OR)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 34 (MN)  
American Federation of Teachers, Seattle Community College Local 1789 (WA)  
American Friends Service Committee - Pacific NW  
American Postal Workers Union, Minneapolis Area Local  
American University Student Worker Alliance  
Americans for Democratic Action of Northeast Ohio  
Austin Central Labor Council (TX)  
Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (TX)  
Azatlan Media Kollektive (CA)  
Backbone Campaign (WA)  
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) Local 167G1 (MN)  
Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM) Local 369G (MN)  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (MN)  
Blue Green Alliance – Minnesota  
Bronx Greens (NY)  
Brooklyn For Peace (NY)  
Bryn Mawr Peace Coalition (PA)  
California Dairy Campaign  
Capitol City and Minneapolis Metal Workers Lodge 459 (MN)  
Caring Activists Against Fur (NJ)  
Carpenters Local 322 (MN)  
Carpenters Local 361 (MN)  
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy (NY)  
Cement Masons and Plasters Local 633  
Center for Community, Democracy and Ecology (CCDE) (MN)  
Center for Natural Health (NH)  
Central Co-Op/Madison Market (WA)  
Central Florida Labor Council  
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL) (MN)  
Chicago Fair Trade (IL)  
Chicago Political Economy Group (IL)  
Christ in Action-Prosperity Services  
Church Council of Greater Seattle (WA)  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Cleveland Jobs with Justice (OH)  
Columbia University Partnership for International Development-CUPID (NY)  
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline (NY)  
Columbia-Pacific Alliance for Social Justice (OR)  
Comite Pro Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social (WA)  
Communication Workers of America District 7 (MN)  
Communication Workers of America Local 6215 (TX)  
Communications Workers of America District 4 (WI)  
Communications Workers of America Local 7901 (OR)  
Communications Workers of America Minnesota State Council  
Community Alliance for Global Justice (WA)  
Community Alliance of Lane County (OR)  
Community for Earth First Unitarian Church - Portland OR  
Community Organizing Center  
Community to Community Development Projects (WA)  
Compassion for All Animals (KS)  
Dakota Resource Council  
Dakota Rural Action  
Dallas AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (TX)  
Dallas Building Trades Council (TX)  
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (PA and NY)  
Dawson Resource Council (MT)  
DC Time Bank  
Delmont Progressive Democrats of America (PA)  
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), San Diego Local Chapter (CA)  
Denver Justice & Peace Committee (CO)  
Doctors Council (TX)  
Eastern Maine Labor Council  
Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM (NY)  
EcoEmm Fair Trade (NY)  
Economic Justice Action Group, First Unitarian Church (OR)  
Elevator Constructors Local 9 (MN)  
Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network-ESSN, A Jobs with Justice Chapter (OR)  
Expand the Love (FL)  
FACE Faith Action for Community Equity (HI)  
Fair Trade at UMass Boston (MA)  
Fair Trade Penn State (PA)  
Fair Trade University at CSU (CO)  
Faith Action Network (WA)  
Farms Not Arms (CA)  
Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Fort Worth Building Trades Council (TX)  
Green Party of Florida  
Green Sanctuary Committee, Community Church of New York, Unitarian Universalist  
GrowJobsCT  
Harris County AFL-CIO Council (TX)  
Heartwood (IN)  
Hofstra Progressive Student Union (NY)  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis (MN)  
Houston Peace and Justice Center (TX)  
Inland Boatman's Union (WA)  
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center - Cincinnati (OH)  
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (MI)  
I.N.T.A.C.T. Community Development Corporation (NY)

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Airline Local 1833 (MN)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) District 751 (WA)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 112 (MN)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Local Lodge 623 (MN)  
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Minnesota State Council (MN)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 3rd District (PA)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 112 (WA)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 191 (WA)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 46 (WA)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 278 (WA)  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 681 (TX)  
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) – Puget Sound District Council (WA)  
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 23 (WA)  
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 23 (WA)  
International Transport Worker's Federation of North America-West Coast  
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 21 (TX)  
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 81 (TX)  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America (OH)  
Ironworkers Local 263 (TX)  
Ironworkers Local 84 (TX)  
IUE-CWA Local 1140 (MN)  
Jeannette Rankin Peace Center (MT)  
JOBS NOW Coalition (MN)  
Jubilee Northwest  
Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA) (CA)  
Labor Outreach Committee of Occupy Wall Street (NY)  
Laborers District Council of Minnesota & North Dakota  
Land Stewardship Project (MN)  
League of Rural Voters - Minnesota  
Lehigh Valley Gas Truth (PA)  
Linn-Benton-Lincoln Central Labor Council (OR)  
Lipari Renewables, Inc. (MN)  
Live Real  
Lone Star Earth First (TX)  
Lubbock Central Labor Council (TX)  
M. L. King County Labor Council (WA)  
Maine Fair Trade Campaign  
Maine's People's Alliance  
Malama Kauai (HI)  
MAPE (MN)  
Maryland United for Peace and Justice, Inc.  
Mingas-NY  
Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation (MN)  
Minnesota AFL-CIO  
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades  
Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition  
Minnesota Farmers Union  
Minnesota Industrial Union Council  
Minnesota Nurses Association  
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group  
Minnesota State Council of Machinists  
Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment  
Montana Human Rights Network  
Mothers on the Move / Madres en Movimiento (NY)

Move to Amend - Portland (OR)  
Move to Amend - Rochester (NY)  
Movement In Motion (NY)  
New York Climate Action Group  
Newground Social Investment (WA)  
NH Veterans for Peace  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action (CA)  
NJ Youth United Against War and Imperialism  
Nodutdol for Korean Community Development (NY)  
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters  
North Coast Veterans for Peace Chapter (OR)  
North East Area Labor Council (MN)  
North Texas Jobs with Justice  
Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)  
Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NY)  
Northwest Oregon Labor Council  
NY4WHALES  
NYC Friends of Clearwater (NY)  
Occupy Coachella Valley (CA)  
Occupy Wall Street Environmental Solidarity (NY)  
Occupy Wall Street Outreach Working Group (NY)  
Occupy Wall Street Special Projects Affinity Group (NY)  
Occupy Wall Street Trade Justice Working Group (NY)  
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 12 (MN)  
Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 8 (WA)  
Operative Plasters & Cement Masons Local 783 (TX)  
Oregon AFL-CIO  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75  
Oregon Alliance for Progress  
Oregon Fair Trade Campaign  
Oregon Machinist Council  
PA 12CD Chapter of Progressive Democrats of American (PDA)  
PA Fair Trade Coalition  
PA Progressive Democrats of America  
PA State Electrical Workers Assoc.  
Peace House (OR)  
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Peopletech (FL)  
Philippine US Solidarity Organization (PUSO) (WA)  
Pierce County Central Labor Council (WA)  
Pittsburgh Anti Sweatshop Community Alliance c/o Thomas Merton Center (PA)  
Plumbers Local 68 (TX)  
Portland Central American Solidarity Committee (OR)  
Portland Jobs with Justice (OR)  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities (MN)  
Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen, SD  
Professional and Technical Employees (PTE) Local 17 (WA)  
Protest Barrick (PA)  
Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans (WA)  
Queerocracy (NY)  
Racine Dominicans (MD)  
Real Food Challenge (MA)  
Regla do Oro (MN)



Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center (CO)  
Rubaga Exchange on AIDS and Livelihood Support Group  
Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO (MN)  
San Antonio Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (TX)  
Sane Energy Project (NY)  
Santa Barbara Progressive Coalition (CA)  
Seattle CISPES (WA)  
Seattle Education Association (WA)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 503, OPEU (OR)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1199NW (WA)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 6 (WA)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 63 (MN)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 775NW (WA)  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Minnesota State Council  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 10 (MN)  
Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter (TX)  
Sierra Club Long Island Group (NY)  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter (MN)  
Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter (CA)  
Sister of the Presentation, Fargo (ND)  
SMART Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 68 (TX)  
Snohomish County Labor Council (WA)  
Sol Fair Trade (WA)  
South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign (WA)  
Southeast Minnesota Alliance of Peace Makers  
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council  
Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice  
Southwest Laborers' District Council (SWLDC) (OK)  
Southwest Pipe Trades Association  
SPEEA/IFPTE 2001 (WA)  
Spirit Wolf Ranch, LLC (CO)  
Spokane Regional Labor Council (WA)  
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (MO)  
St. Paul Regional Labor Federation (MN)  
St. Paul Area Local American Postal Workers Union (MN)  
St. Pete for Peace (FL)  
Stephanie Low Artists Inc. (NY)  
Students for Labor and Economic Justice (CA)  
Stulips Dance (OR)  
Tarrant County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (TX)  
Texas AFL CIO  
Texas American Federation of Teachers  
Texas Fair Trade Coalition  
Texas Political & Legislative Committee  
Texas State Association of Electrical Workers  
Texas State Building and Construction Trades Council  
Texas state council of machinists  
The Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (IL)  
The Forest Foundation  
Trade Justice New York - Metro  
Traditions Fair Trade (WA)  
UNITE-HERE Local 5 (HI)  
UNITE-HERE Local 8 (WA)  
UNITE-HERE Minnesota

United Auto Workers Local 879 (MN)  
United Auto Workers State CAP Council - Minnesota  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1189 (MN)  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 21 (WA)  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) 1189 (MN)  
United Steel Workers District 11 (MN)  
United Steel Workers Local 11-75 (MN)  
United Steel Workers Local 2002 (MN)  
United Steel Workers Local 264 (MN)  
United Steel Workers Local 6115 (MN)  
United Steel Workers Local 7263 (MN)  
United Steelworkers 1188 (ME)  
United Steelworkers District 12 (WA)  
United Steelworkers Local 1016 (PA)  
United Steelworkers Local 1688 (PA)  
United Steelworkers Local 2599-06 (PA)  
United Steelworkers Local 404 (PA)  
United Steelworkers Oregon L & E Committee  
United Steelworkers SOAR Chapter 10-1 (PA)  
United Students Against Sweatshops - University of Texas  
United Transportation Union, Minnesota Legislative District  
University of MN Labor Education Service  
Veterans for Peace, Austin, Chapter 66 (TX)  
Veterans For Peace 071 (CA)  
Veterans for Peace 115 (MN)  
Veterans for Peace 159 (OR)  
Vibrant Public Lands Project (NY)  
Vocal-NY  
Washington Community Action Network  
Washington Fair Trade Coalition  
Washington State Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Washington State Labor Council  
Washington Toxics Coalition  
WashTech/CWA (WA)  
Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)  
Wetlands Activism Collective (NY)  
Whatcom County Green Party (WA)  
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition  
Wisconsin State Council of Carpenters  
Witness for Peace Northwest  
Witness for Peace Southeast  
Witness for Peace Upper Midwest  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Portland, OR Branch  
Worldview (NH)