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Sample Letters to the Editor

Sample Letter 1

Days ago in a posh casino in Auckland, New Zealand, U.S. negotiators were working behind closed doors on a massive agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). It includes 11 countries, but would be open for China and Russia to join later. It's been branded as a "trade agreement." But only 5 of its 29 chapters have anything to do with trade. The rest of its establishes new rights for corporations to offshore jobs, and imposes limits on regulation of banks, and even a ban on the Buy American procurement preferences that reinvest our tax dollars locally to create jobs here. Unlike domestic law, it has no expiration date. And, these new rules would be strongly enforced through international tribunals empowered to impose trade sanctions and cash fines.

The public and Congress know little about what U.S. negotiators are proposing in our names. Recent text leaks reveal that TPP would allow foreign corporations to attack U.S. land-use, health and safety laws in foreign tribunals to demand taxpayer compensation. I would appreciate coverage of TPP in our paper.

Thankfully, there is a proposal, the 21st Century Trade Agreement Act, to rein in the out-of-control U.S. negotiators rushing to finish this deal. Our senators should cosponsor this bill during the lame duck session of Congress.

Sample Letter 2

Earlier this week, U.S. officials were meeting in an upscale casino in Auckland, New Zealand to negotiate a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. It's being sold as a "free trade" agreement, but actually TPP would provide new rights to corporations which incentivize offshoring of jobs, require us to import food that does not meet U.S. safety standards and would even ban Buy American procurement.

This is the biggest international economic pact in decades. A couple of months ago it was between 9 countries – now there are 11, and it's open for more to sign, even China. It would expose the U.S. to corporate attacks before foreign tribunals demanding compensation in our tax dollars, simply because they don't like our laws. Will you please cover this story?

The good news? Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) has introduced the 21st Century Trade Agreements Act to stop "trade" agreements which put foreign corporations before American people. During this lame duck session of Congress, our Senators should co-sponsor that legislation.