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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Public Citizen Experts Available After Trans-Pacific Partnership Lead Negotiator Press Briefing in Leesburg, Va., Saturday Morning

Trade Expert Lori Wallach and Access to Medicines Expert Peter Maybarduk Available in Lobby of Lansdowne Negotiating Venue Immediately Following Press Briefing

WHAT: As the fourteenth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) “free trade” agreement negotiation winds down with a press briefing Saturday morning, Public Citizen trade and access to medicines experts will be available at the Lansdowne negotiating venue. If completed, the TPP would be the largest U.S. free trade agreement, and perhaps the last one negotiated. If the 11 countries now engaged reach a deal, it will be open for other countries to join. TPP talks will not be concluded as planned by the end of 2012, in no small part because of opposition by other TPP nations to U.S. proposals promoted by U.S. corporate interests to extend medicine patents, provide venues to challenge government drug-pricing formulary decisions, expand foreign investor rights and their private corporate enforcement against signatory governments, and limit financial regulation. Public Citizen’s experts can address these issues and more.

The Obama administration has negotiated the TPP for three years in conditions of unprecedented secrecy. The lack of transparency, including denying members of Congress access to the draft TPP text, has sparked growing controversy. Most of the TPP’s 26 draft chapters don’t address trade, but instead establish strongly enforced limits on non-trade domestic policies ranging from medicine pricing to financial regulation and Internet access terms to food safety. Public Citizen’s experts will explain that the TPP would launch a new wave of U.S. job offshoring, jack up medicine prices, open a backdoor for the Stop Online Piracy Act, ban Buy American policies and empower foreign corporations to sue sovereign governments in international tribunals for regulatory compensation. In addition, it would lock in Wall Street deregulation.

WHO: Lori Wallach, director, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch
Peter Maybarduk, director, Public Citizen's Global Access to Medicines Program

WHEN: Immediately following a 10:30 a.m. EDT negotiator press briefing Saturday, Sept. 15

WHERE: Front lobby of the Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodridge Parkway, Leesburg, Va.

For more information about the TPP, please visit
<http://www.citizen.org/documents/TPP-Leesburg-Memo.pdf>.

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