

STOP THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

The TPP is a branded as a “free trade” agreement, but at its heart are new rights and privileges for investors and corporations. The TPP would expand and lock in corporate power.

The TPP elevates individual corporations and investors to equal status with nations, empowering them to sue governments at foreign tribunals of three private attorneys to get paid unlimited taxpayer dollars for federal, state or local laws they claim undermine their TPP rights.

The TPP would make it easier for corporations to offshore American jobs, lower our wages, raise medicine prices, threaten the environment, undermine our food safety and more.

The TPP was negotiated behind closed doors for seven years. More than 500 official U.S. “trade advisors” representing corporations like Wal-Mart, Haliburton, Dow and others had access throughout the negotiations, while the public, press and Congress were shut out.

The final TPP text was signed in February 2016. But the TPP will not ever go into effect unless both the U.S. House and Senate approve it. And now the votes are not there, but the corporate campaign is gearing up. Stopping the TPP is up to all of us!

TPP: Expansion of Corporate Power Over Governments & Our Lives



At the heart of the TPP is the notorious “investor-state dispute settlement” (ISDS) system. This shocking process empowers corporations to go around the U.S. court system to attack laws that

protect our health, environment and financial stability. These cases are decided by tribunals of three corporate lawyers, many of whom rotate between judging cases and representing corporations suing governments — a serious conflict of interest. They can order U.S. taxpayers to pay corporations unlimited sums. Their decisions cannot be appealed. It does not matter if the policy being attacked applies equally to U.S. and foreign firms or if U.S. courts deem it constitutional. The mere threat of a costly ISDS suit can discourage countries from enacting new policies that we need. ISDS puts both our democratic system of decision-making and our taxpayer dollars at risk.

TPP = Job Loss & Lower Wages



The TPP includes rules that make it easier for corporations to offshore more American jobs. It would gut the Buy American preferences used since the 1930s, so foreign firms would get equal access to government contracts, offshoring our tax dollars instead of reinvesting them here at home to create jobs and spur innovation. The TPP would lower our wages for the jobs that remain by throwing Americans into competition with workers in Vietnam making less than 65 cents an hour. This would fuel greater U.S. income inequality. A recent study found the TPP would spell pay cuts for all but the richest 10 percent of us. It would reward firms exploiting labor in low-wage TPP countries.

TPP = Floods of Unsafe Imported Food



The TPP threatens our families' health and safety. It would require us to import food that does not meet U.S. standards and let agribusiness challenge safety inspections. The TPP includes

Vietnam and Malaysia, nations that send tons of shrimp and other seafood here, lots of which are rejected as unsafe under current policy.

TPP = Higher Medicine Prices



The TPP would reduce access to life saving medicines in TPP countries and lock in high drug prices here by granting pharmaceutical firms new monopoly privileges to block

generic competition and raise drug prices. It also would grant the firms new rights to challenge governments' cost saving decisions for programs like Medicare and Medicaid.



Call Your Representative!

The Capitol switchboard is (202)-225-3121. Ask for the Chief of Staff.

Say you are a constituent. Leave a message. (If you are not sure who your member of the House of Representatives is, give your name and address, and the switchboard will connect you.)

Sample call script: "Hi my name is [name], and I am one of your constituents from [town/city]. I want to know if my representative has publicly opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I am strongly opposed and would like a letter stating my representative's position. Years of closed door negotiations with hundreds of official corporate advisors involved has resulted in a deal that would lock in new rights and powers for corporations that make it easier to offshore American jobs, push down our wages, raise medicine prices, flood us with unsafe imported food and threaten the environment. Is my representative against the outrageous investor-state system that lets corporations attack our laws in foreign tribunals and raid our Treasury? That is at the heart of TPP. I look forward to hearing from representative [name of representative]." [Give your mailing address.]

TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP THE TPP!

The TPP will not become a reality unless Congress approves it.
Urge your Member of Congress to publicly oppose the TPP today.
Our democracy and our livelihoods depend on it!