

For Immediate Release

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AFSCME Pres. Lee Saunders on Opposition to Fast Track Authorization

Washington, D.C. — AFSCME Pres. Lee Saunders issued the following statement today in response to a bill introduced by Sen. Max Baucus and Rep. Dave Camp calling for fast track authorization:

“Fast track authorization is a threat to our democracy and our sovereignty. It is a legislative procedure that facilitates closed-door deal making. While corporations are present for trade negotiations, Congress and the public are not.

“Trade deals are sending more and more of our jobs and industries overseas. And the scope of trade negotiations extends beyond questions of tariffs, into policies that affect a broad range of U.S. standards – from the safety of our workplaces to the prices paid for life-saving medicines. The stakes are too high for Congress to tie its own hands when it comes to modifying trade deals it had little role in developing in the first place.”

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