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## **In Press Call, Progressives Announce Anti-Fast Track Activities Nationwide**

### ***As Hundreds of Organizations Mobilize, ‘Real Progressives for American Jobs’ Website Launched to Debunk Fast Track Foolery***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Hundreds of progressive organizations are engaged nationwide in two action-packed weeks of rallies, press events, briefings, bird-dogging events, phone banks, canvasses and more to build opposition against Fast Tracking the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

On a conference call with reporters today, representatives from CREDO, Communications Workers of America, Democracy for America, MoveOn, Public Citizen and the Citizens Trade Campaign described the smorgasbord of actions taking place during the current congressional recess in which citizens are calling for politicians to support American jobs and oppose Fast Track trade authority.

An unprecedented array of progressive organizations opposes Fast Track and the TPP, and thousands of these groups’ members are participating in events coast to coast. These local activities include door-to-door canvassing, rallies, press conferences, bird-dogging at town halls, community phone banks, and drop-ins and hangouts in the members’ district offices.

A new website, “Real Progressives for American Jobs,” available at [www.RealPCAJ.org](http://www.RealPCAJ.org), also was launched during the call. It is a parody of a website created by a public relations [firm](#) claiming to represent progressives in favor of Fast Tracking the TPP.

“The progressive movement could not be more united, more focused, more committed to holding our leaders accountable for the actions they take in Washington than we are right now in the fight against Fast Track authority for the TPP,” said **Neil Sroka, communications director for Democracy for America**, a million-member national progressive political organization. “The fact is, you can be a progressive committed to fighting for working families or you can be for this massive job-killing trade deal written by hundreds of corporate representatives, but you can’t be both. And, if you stand with the wrong side in this fight, the progressive base of the

Democratic Party stands ready to hold you accountable at the ballot box.” Democracy for America is a national political action committee founded in 2004 by former Vermont Governor Howard Dean.

“Senator Ron Wyden has been a champion on key progressive issues ranging from NSA surveillance to Internet freedom. That’s why MoveOn members would feel betrayed if Senator Wyden turned his back on transparency and co-sponsored Fast Track Authority for the TPP. The TPP is a deal-breaker for progressives. When we polled the 88,000 MoveOn members in Oregon, 79 percent of respondents said that they would support a challenger to Senator Wyden in a 2016 Senate primary if he supports Fast Track and the TPP. Senator Elizabeth Warren’s call for opposition to the TPP has done more than strike a chord with MoveOn members—it has rung the Liberty Bell. MoveOn’s 8 million members across the country stand ready to do whatever it takes to kill Fast Track before the TPP kills jobs. And you’d better believe that grassroots progressives will remember who voted for and against the middle class when it comes to the 2016 primaries,” said **Ben Wikler, Washington director of MoveOn.org.**

“Millions of people nationwide are engaging their members of Congress to oppose Fast Track because they understand the damage more job-killing, environment-gutting ‘trade’ agreements would mean for them,” said **Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch.** “The grassroots forces against Fast Track are the local clergy, small business owners, union and environmental group members, activist retirees and students that members of Congress face whenever they go home. Meanwhile, the millions being spent to lobby for Fast Track by Wall Street interests, pharmaceutical and agribusiness firms, job-offshoring multinational corporations and their lobby shops – along with their astroturf operations – go away after the vote.”

“A consultant-run, pro-TPP astroturf campaign won’t change the fact that progressives are united in their opposition to Fast Track and the Trans-Pacific Partnership,” said **Murshed Zaheed, deputy political director at CREDO Action.** “Time and time again, so-called free trade agreements have been bad for American workers, bad for the environment and bad for the United States. We don’t expect the TPP to be any different.” CREDO is a social change organization with 3.5 million members that runs a mobile phone company to fund progressive activism and raise millions of dollars for nonprofit groups.

“Progressives from unions, environmental groups, good government organizations, consumer and citizens’ rights groups, students and many more have put together the biggest coalition ever to stop ‘fast track’ trade promotion authority for bad trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Across the country, members of our coalition are taking this message to their senators and representatives right now: Stand with working people and our communities and vote no on Fast Track. There is no wiggle room on this issue. The impact of decades of bad corporate trade deals on working people is clear to the majority of Americans and backed by key data, and we will no longer stand for it. It needs to be clear to every single elected official who will be making a decision on this issue that they will face serious repercussions for siding against their constituents in favor of wall street and the 1 percent. They must stand with working people and oppose Fast Track,” said **Rafael Navar, national political director, Communications Workers of America.**

“While the administration creates astroturf groups and sends its millionaire bankers around the country to try to sell working people on Fast Track for the TPP, millions of actual people have been telling Congress that they’re not having it,” said **Arthur Stamoulis, executive director of Citizens Trade Campaign**. “As we just saw with the Seattle City Council’s 9-to-0 vote opposing Fast Track, policymakers listen when constituents are pounding on their doors.” Citizens Trade Campaign is a national coalition of labor, environmental, family farm, consumer and human rights organizations working together for trade policies that promote a just and sustainable global economy.

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