



# **“NO TPP” HOUSE PARTIES**

**- GOALS**

**- WHAT’S A “NO TPP” HOUSE PARTY LOOK LIKE?**

**- RECRUITING**

**- NEXT STEPS**



# Why now?

**1.** New polling data from July shows that too many people in the United States still have no idea what the TPP is. The good news is that when people find out the basics, they get mad and want to fight to stop it. Already the TPP has been made a major issue in the presidential election.

**2.** **This is a crucial make-or-break moment.**

We're inviting you to lead on this fight. The TPP vote will only happen IF the White House can count enough votes to know that they can muster the votes to pass TPP if they start the vote clock. Yes, every day another member of Congress speaks out against TPP. But the corporate forces pushing for TPP passage are only now ginning up their big money campaign to try to pass the TPP in a lame duck session of Congress after the election. That is a dangerous time when political accountability to constituents is at its absolute lowest. That is why we must act NOW to get all of our House members out against the TPP publicly pre-election.

- Members of Congress are at home on congressional recess from now until September 5. When they get back to Washington, the vote counting for a lame duck TPP vote will start in earnest.
- That means that the TPP's fate is being decided right now – and we need to make sure that the pro-TPP forces cannot count enough “yes” votes to decide to go for it after election.

## Goals for “No TPP” House Parties

- Get the word out about the TPP to more people – we know that increases public opposition.
- Organize friends and family to take actions that will pressure members of Congress to publicly state their opposition to the TPP.

## What does a “No TPP” Party look like?

- You might provide snacks, drinks, or food – or even better, ask guests to each bring an item.

**Take pictures and video!**

**Email to [respinola@citizen.org](mailto:respinola@citizen.org) and [etalarico@citizen.org](mailto:etalarico@citizen.org).**



# Agenda Part 1

## 20 minutes – Greet guests

Introduce guests to one another, and let folks settle in

## 2 minutes – Host Introduction & Roadmap

Introduce yourself. Go over plan for the meeting:

“We’ll watch a brief video on the TPP, have a discussion, practice petitioning, and plan an action.”

## 10 minutes – Introductions

Have guests get in pairs and spend 4 minutes getting to know each other. Each person should share:

- Name
- Gender pronoun (e.g. they, she, he – don’t make assumptions)
- Where do you call home?

Come back together as a group, and have each guest introduce the person they were partnered with. This activity is an opportunity for people who are shy to get to know somebody one-on-one. Also, introductions tend to stay brief when a person is being introduced rather than introducing themselves.

## 5 minutes – Video

Watch the DVD together

A hand-drawn protest sign on a white background. The word "DANGER" is written in large, black, block letters on the left. To its right, the word "COMING" is written in the same style. In the center, there is a small black dash. On the right side, the letters "TPP" are written in a large, bold, black font with a red outline. The entire sign is set against a background of a white wall with some faint, larger-scale graffiti.



# Agenda Part 2

THE TPP

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## 15 minutes – Practice getting people to sign a postcard petition

Explain to your guests, “Now we want to practice getting people to stand with us against the TPP, by signing a postcard to Representative [your Representative to Congress].”

Do a role play with a guest:

**Organizer:** Hi, will you stand with us against the TPP?

**Passerby:** What’s the TPP?

**Organizer:** The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a deal its proponents call a “trade agreement” but its core provision grants new rights to thousands of multinational corporations to sue the U.S. government before a panel of 3 corporate lawyers. These lawyers can award the corporations unlimited sums to be paid by U.S. taxpayers, including for the loss of expected future profits. The deal also has terms that will make it easier to offshore more American jobs and require us to accept food imports that do not meet our safety standards.

**Passerby:** That sounds horrible.

**Organizer:** Will you sign this petition for Representative [your Representative to Congress]?

**Passerby:** Okay, do you have a pen?

[Passerby signs petition]

**Organizer:** Great! If you’re interested in getting involved, we have an event coming up on [action date]. Can you make it?

**Have guests partner up and role play for 6 minutes. After the first 3 minutes, remind pairs to switch roles if they haven’t.**

**Debrief as a group, by asking the following questions:**

- What was the hardest part?
- What worked well?

**Give out postcards. Ask people to commit to get 15 postcards signed for the upcoming action. Suggest places that they can most easily get signatories.**

AGAINST

TPP



# Agenda Part 3

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## 15 minutes – Action Planning

Explain the birddogging or delegation action you have planned, and that the goal is to “Get our member of Congress to publicly commit to oppose the TPP during the lame duck and to come out against the TPP in its current form.”

Ask “Who can come?” and take down a list. Ask each person to name 5 people they will invite. Write down those names too, so that you can follow up in a few days to make sure outreach has happened.

It’s great if you can make a flyer with the date, time, location, and your contact info for the action.

## 15 minutes – Discussion

Explain to the group, “We want to practice thinking and talking about what the TPP means for us.”

If your group is 5 people or smaller, have a big group discussion. If there are six or more people, break into groups of 3-4 people, and discuss the following prompts. You want to keep the discussion **personal** rather than **abstract**.

- Global justice means that we all face oppressions, and almost every person also experiences privilege in some form or another. We’re not free until we all get free. How is the TPP a global justice issue?
- The TPP grants new rights to thousands of multinational corporations to sue the U.S. government before a panel of three corporate lawyers. These lawyers can award the corporations unlimited sums to be paid by United States taxpayers, including for the loss of expected future profits. There is no appeal to their decisions. How does this make you feel?
- What is the real impact you will experience if the TPP is passed?
  - Access to medicines I need
  - Ability to support myself and my family financially
  - Undermine environmental protections
  - **What is the most important issue among your audience**

## Does it have to be at my house?

Nope! Other spaces you could host a “No TPP” House Party:

- Meeting room at a community center
- Home of a friend who has a great space but doesn't want to facilitate the party themselves
- Conference room at your place of worship
- Space at the library
- Restaurant or café
- Union hall
- **Other ideas?**

## How to recruit?

- Who to recruit:
  - Friends (& their friends)
  - Family
  - Members from your place of worship
  - Co-workers
- Ask people who they can commit to reach out to, write down those names, and follow up to confirm who will be attending.
- Ask leaders in the social justice community if they have suggestions for who you should invite, even if they can't come themselves.
- Rule of halves –
  - Half of the people you call will answer their phones
  - Half of the people who answer will agree to come
  - Half of the people who agree to come will show up
  - How many people do we need to invite if we want 5 people to attend? What if we want 15 people?
- Flyering and Email Blasts
  - Flyer
    - Hand out flyers about your “No TPP” Party
    - Bring a TPP petition or post cards for people to sign
    - Flyer at farmers markets, subway stops, festivals, supermarket, your neighborhood
  - Email lists
    - Blast out through email lists
    - Include date, time, address, your email, and phone number



# Next Steps

## This week

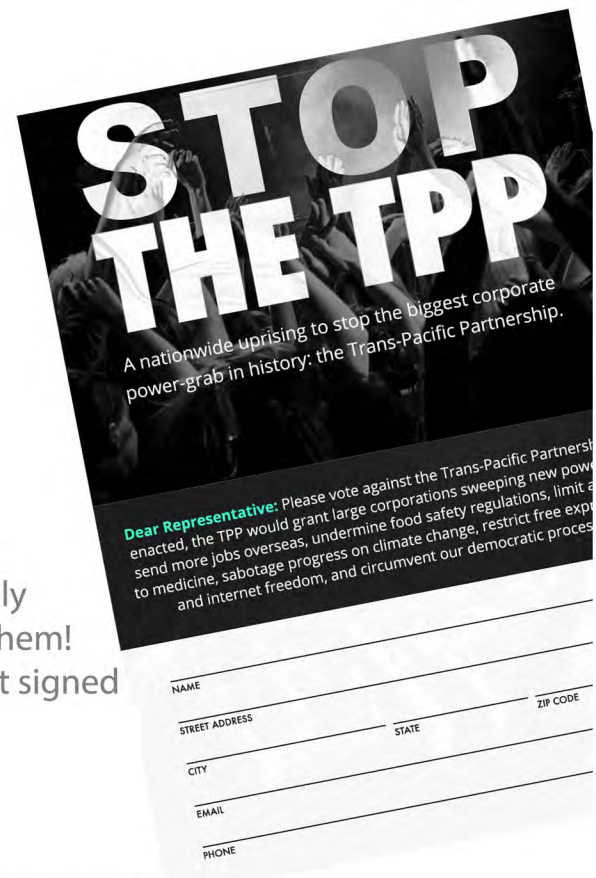
- Extend personal invitations – make calls & ask folks to meet up in person
- Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch will send you an "Expose the TPP" Action pack with:
  - Discussion prompts
  - TPP Information Sheets
  - Buttons
  - Stickers
  - Post card petitions
  - DVD with TPP video

## Next Week: Week of Aug 15

- Host your party
  - Ensure all the logistics are set
  - Practice facilitating the meeting
  - Do confirmation calls 2 days ahead of the party, and again day of
    - Get people to commit to bring a friend or something that's needed for the party (food, drink, a DVD player) – they're more likely to show up if they know you're counting on them!
- Get each person to take home 15 post cards to get signed

## Week of Aug 21

- Host an action while your member of Congress is at home on Summer recess
  - **Bird-dogging**
    - Ask a question at an event, and ask the member of Congress "Will you come out against the TPP in its current form, and commit to vote "No" if the TPP is brought to a vote during the lame duck?"
  - **Delegation**
    - Deliver postcards to the Congressperson's office, along with a letter asking "Will you come out against the TPP in its current form, and publicly announce now that you will commit to vote "No" if the TPP is brought to a vote during the lame duck session of Congress?"



Email us at [stopthetpp@citizen.org](mailto:stopthetpp@citizen.org) to discuss ideas