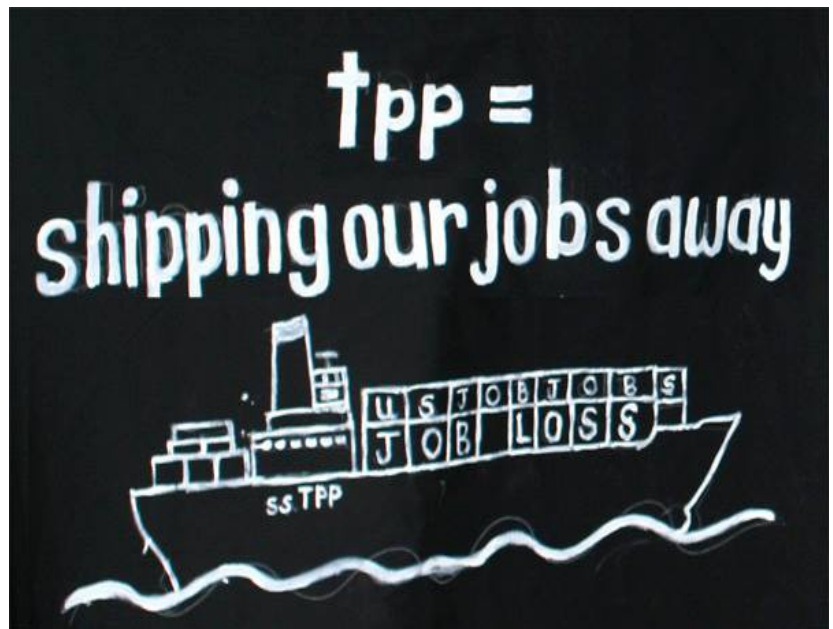


# CONGRESSMAN JEFFRIES: SAVE NEW YORK JOBS!

## What is TPP and Why Does It Threaten Our Jobs?

TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated by our government with the governments of 12 other countries. It will make it easier for big companies to move jobs out of the US to countries like Vietnam where they can pay workers \$1 per day. Service and manufacturing jobs will be lost. Rising unemployment will mean less people paying taxes, resulting in less money to pay government workers and ultimately layoffs from government jobs. TPP will make it easier for companies to invest in foreign countries, produce their goods in those countries and then bring them back to the United States without tariffs – taxes that raise the price of imported goods to give an advantage to products made here in the USA. With the exception of Japan, most of the TPP countries in TPP are either poor, small or already have free trade agreements with the US. So, while TPP will mean more foreign imports competing with US goods, it won't create significant opportunities for US companies to sell more products in TPP countries. More exports mean more jobs. More imports means less jobs. TPP will be a job killer, not a job creator.



Our government can support US jobs by buying goods made by US workers. “Buy American” procurement rules encourage our government, when considering purchasing options, to favor US made products over foreign made goods – including those made in the most brutal overseas sweatshops. This gives companies an incentive to keep jobs at home in order to increase their chances of having their products chosen for purchase by our government. Unfortunately, TPP may make “Buy American” rules illegal!

## Repeating the Mistakes of NAFTA



In 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the US, Mexico, and Canada went into effect. Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton sold NAFTA to the US public as an agreement that would boost the US economy and create opportunities for US workers.

However, according to Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch:

*“In the 20 years since NAFTA was implemented under Fast Track, the agreement has resulted in a “staggering \$181 billion U.S. trade deficit with NAFTA partners Mexico and Canada and the related loss of 1 million net U.S. jobs under NAFTA; growing income inequality, displacement of more than one million Mexican campesino farmers and a doubling of desperate immigration from Mexico; and more than \$360 million paid to corporations after 'investor-state' tribunal attacks on domestic public interest policies.”<sup>1</sup> Instead of learning from our NAFTA mistake, our government has since passed more and more job-killing free trade deals, contributing to our current high rate of unemployment. TPP is the biggest and worst yet, covering 40% of the global economy.*

<sup>1</sup>Wallach, Lori. "NAFTA at 20: One Million U.S. Jobs Lost, Higher Income Inequality." *World Post*. Huffington Post and Berggruen Institute on Governance, 6 Jan. 2014. Web. 20 June 2014. <[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lori-wallach/nafta-at-20-one-million-u\\_b\\_4550207.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lori-wallach/nafta-at-20-one-million-u_b_4550207.html)>.

# TPP – Bad for Workers but Good for Big Business

So if TPP is a rotten deal for US workers, who wants it?

- \* Corporations like Nike who want to produce goods in Vietnamese sweatshops and import them back to the US tariff-free.
- \* Big box chains stores like Target that want to drive mom and pop stores out of business by importing cheaply-made foreign products, taking money out of the community and sending it into the bank accounts of rich corporate CEOs and investors.
- \* Drug companies like Pfizer that want TPP to include “intellectual property” rules that prevent drugs from going generic, forcing people to buy over-priced brand name medicines that many people with serious illnesses can't afford.
- \* Corporate polluters that want TPP to include laws that allow them to sue our government to demand monetary compensation from our national treasury when our laws prevent them from profiting by poisoning our air and water.
- \* Big banks and financial companies back the TPP because it contains, at their behest, rules that would make it illegal for governments to enact reforms that would reign in speculation, not even allowing them to pass temporary measures in the event of another financial crash



## Rep. Jeffries: On the Right Track vs. Fast Track



For trade agreements to be enacted into law, Congress has to vote on them. Since 1974, Presidents have ramrodded trade agreements that are good for their corporate donors but bad for the majority of voters through Congress using a procedure called Fast Track. Under Fast Track the President can force Congress to vote on trade agreements within 90 days, limit floor debate to 20 hours, and prohibit Congress from amending the agreements in any way – preventing our elected officials from removing or changing TPP's worst rules. But before the President can use Fast Track, Congress has to pass legislation giving him permission to do so.

Congressman Jeffries has twice gone on record against Fast Track,. In June 2013, he was one of 35 freshmen in the House of Representatives to sign a letter against Fast Track to Sander Levin, ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee decrying lack of transparency in TPP negotiations and opposing the delegation of Congress's trade negotiating authority to the President's executive branch. In November 2013, Congressman Jeffries was one of 151 Democrats in the House of Representatives signed a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to Fast Track.

Fast track expired in 2007, but President Obama seeks to renew it. A new Fast Track bill is expected to be introduced after the November 2014 election – a time politicians traditionally use to sneak through unpopular legislation – with a new, nicer-sounding name: “Smart Track.” But whether it's called Fast Track or Smart Track, it's the wrong track!

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Call and email Kirsten Donaldson, Congressman Jeffries' legislative assistant on trade. Express your thanks for Congressman Jeffries' public stance against Fast Track and let her know that even if Fast Track is repackaged as “Smart Track” or anything else, you are counting on Congressman Jeffries to oppose it. Also ask him to join his fellow Brooklyn Congressman Michael Grimm and Grimm's opponent Dominick Recchia in pledging to oppose not only Fast Track, but TPP itself. Ms. Donaldson's phone number is (202) 225-4365. Her email address is [kirsten.donaldson@mail.house.gov](mailto:kirsten.donaldson@mail.house.gov).
- Also contact Senator Schumer (202-224-6542 / [charles.schumer@senate.gov](mailto:charles.schumer@senate.gov)) and Senator Gillibrand at (202-224-4451 / [kirsten.gillibrand@senate.gov](mailto:kirsten.gillibrand@senate.gov)) and ask them to support Amendment #3268 to the Senate's Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill, which cuts off funding for negotiations of any trade agreement provisions that undermine “Buy American” preferences.

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