



## Photo Opportunity/Media Advisory

For Immediate Release  
1/25/15

Contact: Contact: Lisa Oldendorp  
(516) 316-2154

# Protesters from Over 100 Organizations Brave Blizzard to Protest Monday Launch of First-Ever NY Round of Talks for Secretly Negotiated, Obama-Backed TPP Trade Deal

Protesters Denounce TPP As “NAFTA on Steroids,”

Call on Sen. Schumer to Oppose TPP Fast Track Legislation in Tuesday Senate Hearing

**Who:** A coalition of over 100 environmental, health advocacy, faith, peace, internet freedom, animal rights, third party, labor rights, food justice, feminist, anti-nuclear, and other groups.

**What:** A rally on the first day of secret TPP negotiations including puppets, giant banners, speeches by experts and activists, songs by the Raging Grannies and chanting, followed by a march to Senator Schumer's office, where activists will call on the Senator to denounce proposed legislation Fast Track trade authority legislation that would help to railroad TPP through Congress at a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Fast Track this Tuesday.

**Where/When:** Monday, Jan. 26: 12:10-1PM: Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, 811 Seventh Ave. at West 52nd Street. At 1PM protesters will march to the office of Senator Schumer at 780 3rd Avenue between 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Streets and rally until shortly after 2PM.

**Why:** At last week's State of the Union Address, President Obama called on Congress to grant him Trade Promotion Authority for TPP and TTIP, new free trade deals with the Pacific Rim and Europe, claiming that these agreements are “not just free, but fair.” But activists charge that these deals are neither free nor fair. Free speech and internet freedom groups charge that TPP will severely restrict internet use, while global health advocates charge that by extending corporate patent rights, TPP will be a death sentence for people in the Global South who depend on affordable generics to make lifesaving drugs affordable while raising drug costs for seniors in the US. Environmental organizations, clean-energy advocates, social-movement groups, unions, labor advocates and other organizers warn that the TPP will lead to more jobs being transferred overseas; increased attacks on environmental, safety and health regulations; and the undermining of laws that reign in financial speculation.

Negotiations texts for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed trade agreement between the United States and 11 other countries around the Pacific Rim are kept secret from the public and even members of Congress have severely restricted access, while nearly 600 corporate “cleared advisers” on Industry Trade Advisory Committees are granted unfettered access to TPP negotiating documents relevant to their business interests. If passed, TPP would bind governments to rules that would enable corporations and other “investors” to unlimited sums in monetary compensation when they public interest laws and regulations interfere with their expected future profits. This would be done through suing governments in arbitration forums that are conducted in secret, allow for no appeal and are binding even when directly in conflict with laws and regulations passed in democratic processes. In an effort to bypass public input, the Obama administration is asking Congress to approve a special law called “fast track” whereby Congress would have to vote on the TPP, and other trade deals, with no ability to change the text and limited debate.

**Additional info on the rally, TPP, and Fast Track:** <http://tradejustice.net/126>