

Media Advisory for Wednesday, February 25, 2015

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Community, Labor, Advocacy Groups Join Together for Community Meeting To Expose the Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Deal

Nobel Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz to Speak at Educational Event Calling on U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley to once again oppose 'Fast Track' legislation, which would lead to the TPP's passage

WHAT: A diverse set of organizations and unions are uniting with community groups in a forum to expose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The TPP will send more U.S. jobs overseas, raise prescription drug prices, threaten food safety, and allow multinational corporations to challenge U.S. laws and regulations that affect "expected future profits."

Queens and Bronx Representative Joseph Crowley can help stop the TPP by once again opposing "Fast Track" legislation, which is a legislative maneuver to ram through the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, an expert on the TPP, will speak at the forum along with local activists, community leaders. Local elected officials are also invited. Simultaneous Spanish translation will be provided.

WHO: The Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch, Working Families Party, Communications Workers of America, District Council of Carpenters, Make the Road New York and the NYS Machinists Council, as well as local organizations. Over 200 people from the area are expected to attend the forum. Local elected officials are also being invited to attend.

WHERE: PS 69 77-02 37th Avenue, Jackson Heights NY 11372

WHEN: Wednesday, February 25, 6pm – 7:30 pm.

Background:

The TPP is being negotiated in secret between the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries including Malaysia, Mexico, Japan, and Vietnam. This massive trade deal would cover 792 million people and 40 percent of the global economy. The TPP would destroy U.S. jobs and allow multinational corporations to challenge environmental, consumer, and even our Buy American laws. New York's ban on fracking is an example of a regulation that could be open to challenge by multinational corporations if the TPP is enacted.

Trade Promotion Authority, or "Fast Track," is an expedited process that strips away the rights of members of Congress to debate and amend the trade deal and requires an up-or-down vote with limited

debate. Many members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, have publicly declared their opposition to Fast Track. Virtually all of the Democrats in the NYS delegation have announced their opposition to Fast Track.

US House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan has announced that Fast Track legislation will soon be introduced in his committee. Representative Joseph Crowley is a member of the Committee and has voted against Fast Track legislation in the past.

The full list of sponsors of the community meeting are:

BAYAN USA; Big Apple Coffee Party; CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities; Churches United for Fair Housing; Communications Workers of America; District Council 9 Painters & Allied Trades; Eco-Logic of WBAI-FM; Flush the TPP; Food & Water Watch; Global Justice for Animals and the Environment; GooseWatch NYC; Health GAP (Global Access Project); Make the Road New York; MoveOn NYC Councils; New Visions Democratic Club; New York Buyers' Club; New York Communities for Change; NYC District Council of Carpenters; NYS Council of Machinists; Occupy Wall Street Zapatista Solidarity Network; Polo Democratico Alternativo NY; Popular Resistance; Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch; Rainforest Relief; Roosevelt Avenue Community Alliance (RACA); Sane Energy Project; Sierra Club - Atlantic Chapter; Sierra Club NYC Group; Socialist Alternative Queens Branch; Somos los Otros NY por Ayotzinapa; Stephanie Low Artists, Inc.; Terraza 7; TradeJustice New York Metro; Working Families Party