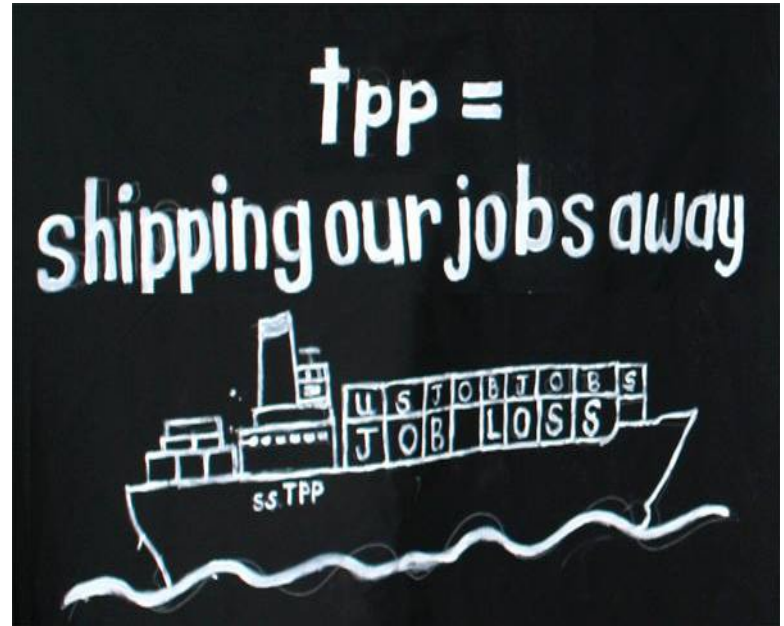


REP. RANGEL: SAVE NEW YORK JOBS!

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 and cuts in public services. 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 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, the current text of TPP will 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.”¹

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.

¹Wallach, 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>.

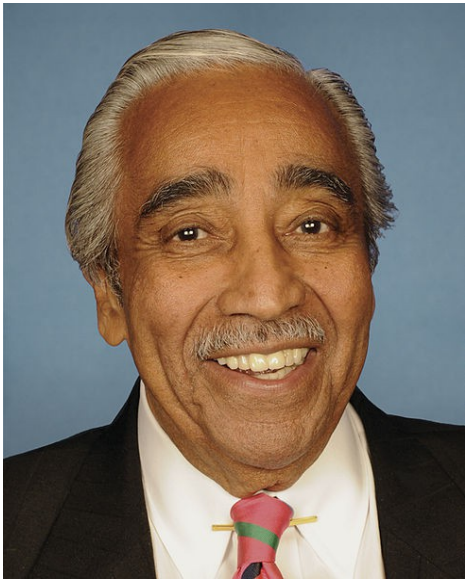
TPP – Bad for Workers but Good for Big Business

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 chain stores like Target that want to drive Harlem's 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.



How Can Charlie Rangel Stop This?



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 in trade agreements within 90 days, limit floor debate to 20 hours, and prohibits Congress from amending the agreements in any way – preventing our elected offices 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.

In November 2013, 151 Democrats in the House of Representatives signed a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to Fast Track. Only three House Democrats in the entire state refused to sign the letter. Unfortunately, one of them was Charlie Rangel. However, in January, when a bill to give President Obama the power to send trade agreements to Congress under Fast Track rules was introduced in the House of Representatives, Charlie Rangel opposed it. The January Fast Track bill was so unpopular that it was never voted on, but 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 Reba Raffaelli, Representative Rangel's Senior Policy Adviser. Tell her you want Congressman Rangel to publicly pledge to oppose ANY bill that would allow TPP to go to Congress under Fast Track rules whether called “Fast Track,” “Smart Track,” “Trade Promotion Authority,” or anything else. If TPP goes before Congress, it should do so under the “regular order,” allowing members of Congress to take as long as they need to read, deliberate on, and debate TPP and allowing them to make amendments to the legislation. Her phone number is 202-225-4365. Her email address is reba.raffaelli@mail.house.gov.
- Also contact Senator Schumer (202-224-6542 / charles.schumer@senate.gov) and Senator Gillibrand at (202-224-4451 / 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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