



# FAST TRACK TRADE LEGISLATION WILL HARM OUR ENVIRONMENT

## WHAT IS FAST TRACK

- [Fast track](#), also known as Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), is a process that would rush trade deals through Congress and remove the ability of our elected officials to ensure that trade pacts protect workers, communities and the environment.
- Fast track would allow the president to send already signed trade pacts, including the secretly negotiated [Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\)](#) and [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#), to Congress for a straight up-or-down vote with *no* amendments and a maximum of 20 hours debate.
- Fast track eliminates important democratic checks and balances by delegating Congressional authority to regulate trade to the executive branch.
- Fast track legislation is expected to be introduced in early 2015 and would serve to expedite approval of [climate-threatening](#) trade deals like the TPP and TTIP.

## FAST TRACK AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fast track would rush trade agreements through Congress that could devastate our environment.
- Under negotiation in the TPP and the TTIP are (1) rules that would [grant foreign corporations](#) the right to sue governments, in private tribunals, over environmental and other laws and policies that corporations allege reduce their profits; (2) [rules that would require](#) the United States Department of Energy to automatically

approve exports of liquefied natural gas to countries in the pacts, thereby encouraging more fracking; and (3) a system for “harmonizing” regulations that could significantly [weaken public health and environmental](#) protections by offering new opportunities for foreign governments and corporations to intervene early on in our rulemaking processes.

- Congress and the public need to be able to read the texts of these and other agreements and discuss their risks, but today’s trade agreements are negotiated in a cloud of secrecy. Fast track would make this flawed process worse by rushing trade agreements to approval and limiting the ability of Congress to influence their contents.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP FAST TRACK

- You can help stop fast track and stand up for fair trade by calling on your Members of Congress to oppose fast-track legislation at Congressional town halls and meetings, by contacting Members through letters and phone calls, and by writing letters to the editor and op-ed columns in local papers.

For more information on Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Program and ways to get involved, please contact [Courtenay.Lewis@sierraclub.org](mailto:Courtenay.Lewis@sierraclub.org)

[sierraclub.org/trade](http://sierraclub.org/trade)



RESPONSIBLE  
TRADE PROGRAM