

## Talk Points for Jackson Heights Community Meeting

The TPP is a massive international trade deal that's being negotiated in secret, behind closed doors.

The TPP will send more jobs overseas, lower standards and wages, threaten food safety, pollute our air and water, and raise prescription drug prices.

Rep. Crowley has the opportunity to play a major role in stopping the TPP by once again opposing Fast Track. ]

Rep. Crowley has voted against Fast Track before and has supported working people before. We need him to do so once again. He can play a major role in stopping this dangerous deal in its tracks.

**Jobs:** NAFTA cost over 700,000 jobs. The recently concluded Korean trade deal we were told would create 40,000 jobs, but it's destroyed over 70,000 jobs. We've lost over 5 million manufacturing jobs and 500,000 call center jobs. That's just two industries devastated by outsourcing and offshoring. Economists estimate that about 20% of American jobs are outsourceable. Everything from medical imaging to back office work can be outsourced. All that outsourcing and off-shoring is greased by bad trade deals – and the TPP would be the worst ever. It's like NAFTA on steroids.

**Food Safety:** The TPP threatens the safety of the food we eat because imported food would not be subject to US safety standards. Everything from country of origin labelling on meat and fish to labelling for genetically modified food would also be threatened.

**Prescription Drugs:** The TPP will raise prescription drug prices by granting the big drug companies longer patents, which will keep out generic competition that lowers prices. Drug prices will rise under the TPP.

**Environment:** The TPP will over-ride environmental protections, leading to more polluted air and water and more climate pollution. New York's fracking ban is the kind of regulation that could be overturned by the TPP.

**What is Fast Track?** Fast Track is a legislative process that would be used to ram the TPP through Congress using an expedited voting procedure. Fast Track means an up or down vote on the entire agreement which is now about 12,000 pages long without any opportunity for amendments. And any part of the TPP that conflicts with US law would automatically override US law under Fast Track rules. Fast Tracking the TPP means the agreement will pass. Rep. Crowley should once again oppose Fast Track.

**Why Does Obama Support TPP?** President Obama may believe this trade agreement will grow our economy, but we have tried this approach before and it hasn't worked. Big corporations will take advantage of the deal to send more of our jobs overseas, to take advantage of low wages and weak environmental rules. The president needs to take a new approach.

**Corporations Can Attack Our Laws:** Under the TPP, multinational corporations could sue to overturn our federal, state and local laws that they believe stand in the way of their profits. Allowing corporations the same status as national governments to shred health, safety, labor, consumer and environmental standards is appalling.

**Rep. Crowley:** Joe Crowley has stood up for working people again and again. In the past, he has voted against Fast Track. We are calling on Representative Crowley to come out now in opposition to Fast Track and the TPP.

**Transparency:** The TPP is being negotiated in secret because what's in the agreement can't stand the light of day. Leaks tell us it's now 12,000 pages long, all negotiated in secret. We only know what's in the agreement because of leaks, such as through WikiLeaks. Fast Track for the TPP puts us on the path to approving a secret agreement that the American people won't see until it's too late.

**This Issue is Important:** The TPP cover 40% of the world economy. It covers the US and 11 Pacific Rim Countries including Mexico, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. It's structured as a "docking agreement," which means China could join the TPP after it's passed *without* U.S. approval. We need to raise standards globally, not create a faster race to the bottom.