

From Harriet Heywood, on National TPP Conference Call
Sunday Jan. 25th.

I am happy to pass on what I have done to get my Tea Party Caucus member on board. I am also attaching a document from an earlier call we had with Michael Stumo, of Coalition for a Prosperous America, CPA, that has a variety of conservative talking points, but I am passing on what has worked for me. Also, I should mention that a respectful tone is great too.

I have organized on this locally for a couple years, and have a district-specific petition list that I email also and from time to time send them a call-in email with a short script, and have held office visits. **My rep actually called me last year and set up a phone conference.** He agreed with everything I said. I recently had such a call-in, and **his office confirmed he is still committed to voting NO on fast track.**

First, with Tea Party Reps. comes the issue of Fast Track and the Constitution, with the separation of powers laid out there. (seems more so with Obama) The Founding Fathers were afraid of an 'imperial presidency' which is why the separation of powers is at the top of the list for those who claim to be with the Tea Party, so you can quote Article 1.8 that says 'Congress shall have the right to regulate and make laws respecting trade.

We feel very strongly that Congress should continue being fully involved in making the laws on trade, but fast track severely limits Congressional input, disallows amendments, and debate, and even forces votes on a strict up or down vote before thousands of pages of the deals themselves are even read by Congress or the people they represent. Fast Track also, once approved stays in effect for 5 years, for any trade agreement we have yet to hear about.

Very important is to ask your rep if s/he took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. If so, why would they hand their authority to the president, who already has the power to choose trading partners.

Next comes the issue of sovereignty. Why would you, someone we elected to represent us, trust this president to make secret deals that allow foreign interests to hold power over national, state, and local laws that keep us safe? Avoid using the word corporations if you can. Don't mention the environment either.

Third, Jobs and Wages: The tea party and conservatives are concerned about deficits and jobs. This argument I used very effectively with my rep also. Since NAFTA, and WTO, we have seen massive trade deficits that have led to millions of jobs being outsourced to low-wage countries, chronic unemployment, the deterioration of once-great manufacturing centers in the United States, and low-wage service jobs that have led to deficits. In order to have full coffers, you must have incomes that generate tax dollars. We want to keep and create good-paying jobs right here in the U.S. We don't want to compete with Viet Nam which has a 56 cent minimum wage.

If the TPP and other free trade agreements are so good for the American people, allow Congress and the American people to see what's in them. Don't hand your authority over to the president so he can fast track a deal he doesn't want us to see. Commit to voting no on Fast track.